





## Lebanese Christians urge election boycott

BEIRUT (R) — Christian opposition leaders urged the Lebanese on Friday to boycott next month's parliamentary elections, denouncing a newly approved election law and saying the polls would be controlled by Syria.

"We warn you, Lebanese people, against taking part in these elections whether as candidates or voters. They are the most dangerous forgery aimed at erasing the Lebanese homeland," Dori Chamoun, leader of the right-wing National Liberal Party, told a news conference.

"Your boycott is a duty and responsibility and it is

a rejection of humiliation. It is an act of faith in Lebanon," he said in a joint statement with former President Amin Gemayel and former army commander Michel Aoun, both of whom live in exile in Paris. The elections are expected to begin on Aug. 18 or 25.

The vast majority of Christians and many Muslims boycotted the 1992 elections on similar grounds.

Parliament approved on Thursday a government-backed law to ensure the election of Druze leader Walid Jumblatt, an ally of the Syrian-backed government, at the

expense of the Christians. The law divides overwhelmingly Christian Mount Lebanon governorate into six smaller constituencies based on districts. This will ensure Mr. Jumblatt's election with his pro-government Druze and Christian supporters because at least two of the six districts have Druze majorities.

Under the 1989 Taif accord that set out the political settlement ending the 1975-90 civil war, all constituencies should be based on governorates.

"The next parliament will be more hideous than today's parliament. Its law

is forged and rejected," Mr. Chamoun said.

"The election will take place amid the coerced absence (in exile) of the national leadership and under illegal regulations, supervised by a non-Lebanese authority which is politically and militarily dominant and exerting pressure to achieve its direct interests at the expense of our national dynamic and core interests," the joint statement said in a clear reference to Syria, which has 35,000 troops in Lebanon.

"We strongly believe the role of the next parliament is to pursue the plan to

dilute the Lebanese entity," it added.

Many Christians now believe the 1992 boycott simply allowed the election of an overwhelming majority of pro-Syrian deputies of all sects and left the Christian opposition unrepresented in parliament and seriously weakened in the state.

Political analysts say more independent or opposition Christian deputies would be elected if Mount Lebanon was allowed to vote as a single constituency.



AN EGYPTIAN WORKER CLEANS OLD PYRAMID STONES: An Egyptian antiquities worker cleans a rock at the site of the 4500-year-old Seneferu pyramid Friday with a view of the "bent" pyramid in the background. Egypt will soon reap the rewards from one of its best endowed pyramid fields when the site reopens to the public on July 15 after 40 years masquerading as a military base (Reuters photo)

## Greece firm in blocking EU funds to Turkey

ATHENS (R) — Greece stood firm on Friday in blocking European Union funds to Turkey despite EU pressure to lift its objections before Monday's foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels.

"It does not depend on me," Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos told reporters on the prospects for a breakthrough. "It depends on all 15 members. I tried my best."

Mr. Pangalos made the comments shortly after a meeting with Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring, who arrived in Athens on Friday to apply EU pressure for a compromise. Ireland currently holds the EU's rotating presidency.

Greece blocked in March a 375 million ECU (\$490 million) EU aid package to Ankara designed to help it adjust to a market-opening customs union with the EU that came into effect in January.

Greece and Turkey came close to armed conflict in January over rights of an uninhabited islet in the eastern Aegean Sea. A clash was averted through a U.S. compromise but Athens has since blocked all moves that will bring Turkey closer to Europe.

Athens has said it wants the EU to say that it considers Greece's borders as its own, put pressure on Turkey to respect existing border treaties and resolve disputes through the international court at the Hague.

Turkey wants differences to be resolved through direct dialogue with Greece but Athens says it will never negotiate its territory.

## Egypt's Al Azhar University bans book on prophets; police to question author

CAIRO (R) — Muslim clerics at Al Azhar, Egypt's highest Islamic authority, have banned a book about prophets and police will question its author on charges of insulting the messengers, government newspapers said on Friday.

The daily Al Akhbar said some 3,000 copies of "A Psychological Analysis of Prophets" by magazine journalist Abdullah Kamal have already been sold.

Police seized three copies of the book from its distributors and proofs for a second edition after Al Azhar's Islamic Research Academy (IRA) issued a fatwa (religious edict) banning its publica-

tion and distribution, the paper said.

Al Akhbar said the clerics objected to the book's "depiction of prophets in terms that violate their religious position."

The daily Al Gomhuria said police would interrogate Mr. Kamal, who writes for the Egyptian Rose Al Youssef magazine.

Clerics from Al Azhar Islamic Research Academy have in the past banned books that survived government censorship, usually because they contained explicit sex or unorthodox attitudes towards Islam.

Intellectuals have criticised what they call the government's submission

to Al Azhar's conservative views.

Many held Al Azhar responsible for the 1992 killing of secular writer Faraj Foda by Muslim militants who quoted a statement by Al Azhar academy saying Mr. Foda's writings were blasphemous to Islam.

Novelist Ala Hamed was sentenced to eight years in jail in 1991 after Al Azhar called one of his novels blasphemous. He remains in legal limbo because the prime minister never endorsed his sentence.

Mr. Hamed lost his government job in 1994 because government censors ruled that his unpublished book "El Firash" (the bed) contained

explicit descriptions of sex.

Al Azhar's most famous ban came in 1959 when it objected to "Children of Gabalawi" by Egypt's Nobel laureate Naguib Mahfouz on the grounds that it offends Islam by including characters clearly representing God and the prophets.

Newspapers serialised the book after Muslims militants stabbed and seriously wounded Mr. Mahfouz in 1994.

Two militants were executed for the attack on Mr. Mahfouz, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1988.

## Religious police enforce Islamic values in Saudi Arabia

By Christine Hauser  
Reuters

RIYADH — It is dusk in Saudi Arabia and the call to prayer echoes through the streets of Riyadh. A van creeps along in low gear, keeping pace with pedestrians.

"Muslims, go pray," a man in the vehicle says by loudspeaker.

Saudi Arabia's mutawain, a type of roving religious police in long white robes and beards, are seen by many as necessary enforcers of Islamic values and behaviour in the kingdom, guardian of Islam's holiest sites.

Mutawain are "like an anti-theft. Some people are ill. Some people don't want moral cleanliness," said Khaled Al Sherqawi, a Moroccan teacher at the office for propaganda and guidance, which educates converts to Islam.

Their role is "like an obstacle between these people and their Saranic deeds," he added.

Mutawain, which means enforcers of obedience in Arabic, are government employees

in the Committee to Prevent Vice and Protect Virtue, a semi-autonomous agency that encourages adherence to Islamic values by monitoring public behaviour.

They roam streets and shopping malls, sometimes tapping on windows to make sure shops close at prayer time. They must be accompanied by police and can detain people for up to 24 hours.

As the custodian of Islam's two holy shrines, Saudi Arabia sees itself as having a special responsibility to the world's millions of Muslims to uphold strict Islamic tenets.

But it is also home to about six million foreigners, including one of the largest populations of Americans outside the United States. Non-Muslims must adhere to Saudi rules prohibiting immodest dress, alcohol and mixing with the opposite sex.

Diplomats say the mutawain have become more active, including in Riyadh's diplomatic area, since the 1991 Gulf war, when thousands of foreign

troops poured into Saudi for the push that ended Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

Women especially are careful. They are not allowed to drive, they risk arrest for being in a vehicle driven by a man who is not an employee or relative, and they must wear a long "abaya" robe.

"They (mutawain) know some words in English like 'cover' and 'wear your scarf'," said a Western nurse who wears an abaya and like many other women says she has no problem with it. "I haven't had bad experiences. Most of them are really nice."

Most Westerners live in compounds where they drink home-brewed alcohol, dress the way they want and hold parties.

"Basically you do what you want on the compounds" where the mutawain are not allowed entry, said a British businessman.

But when foreigners leave the compounds' high walls, they are fair game. Some say they were sent to jail by over-zealous

mutawain because they walked out of a compound at the wrong time, merging with a group of partygoers who had been drinking.

Some women say they have been shouted at to cover their hair or had a stick waved at their bare ankles.

"I was in one of the shopping malls with my daughter, who had an abaya on. We were looking at gold in a shop. Suddenly we had a mutawain behind us, telling her to cover her hair," said a Western businessman.

"We ignored him and he walked away."

The U.S. 1996 human rights report on Saudi Arabia, a public document, said mutawain "continued to confront, and sometimes abuse, citizens and foreigners." It added that there was harassment by "religious vigilantes acting independently."

It said actions included closing shops at prayer times, and enforcing modest dress and avoidance of video rental shops.

It said the mutawain expected

Arab, African and Asian women to comply fully with dress codes but in recent years they had increased pressure on Westerners to wear an abaya and cover their hair.

"They also harassed and arrested non-Muslims attempting to conduct religious services," the report said.

The report alleged that there had been some cases of forced entry into private homes and physical abuse. It said the Saudi government at times tightened control over them and instructed them to be polite.

There were no official figures immediately available on how many mutawain are in Saudi Arabia. One diplomat said he believed they were recruited from the religious Imam University in Riyadh and another Islamic institution in nearby Buraidah.

One day in July, vans painted with the mutawain emblem were parked outside their Riyadh office, a villa-style building which opens onto a courtyard surrounded by a high

wall. Four "mutawain" sat inside. They sat a chair in the leafy courtyard for a woman reporter, who was asked to pass written questions through the door or shout them into the room.

They served sweet tea and filled their visitor's arms with books on Islam. After one of them checked by telephone with authorities, they politely declined to answer questions.

"We want to answer your questions but I must obey," said a mutawain apologetically.

Sherqawi was more expressive when explaining their role. He prefers to call them "mutawain," which means committed Muslim.

"For example now there is no light," he said, leaping up to turn off a switch and blanketing the room in darkness. "Now this is the mutawain," he said, filling the room with light.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
<b>PROGRAMME TWO</b>	
15:00	Moon
15:30	Pumpkin Patch
16:10	Jake / Big Brother Jake
16:40	Olympics
17:00	News flash
17:02	Science Cartoon
17:15	Document — La Vie
17:30	Devant Moi
17:30	Game Show — Que Le
18:00	Series — Chateau Vailon
19:00	Le Journal
19:15	Magazine — Fast Pas
19:30	New headlines
19:35	The Torklesons
20:00	Album Show
20:50	Miami Vice
21:30	Prism
22:00	News in English
22:25	The Bold and the Beautiful
23:10	Feature Film — "Foul Play"
<b>PRAYER TIMES</b>	
04:01	Fajr
05:34	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:41	Dhuhr
16:22	Asr
19:48	Maghreb
21:21	Isha
<b>CHURCHES</b>	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church	
Sweilsh, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church Tel.	
632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation	
Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661656	

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366		Amman 29, Aqaba 37 Humidity readings: Amman 63 per cent, Aqaba 44 per cent.		Highway Police .....843402		Malhas, J. Amman .....636140		Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained on telephone (08) 52700 or (08) 523250.		06:30 .....Tel Aviv (LY)	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541		USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS		Traffic Police .....396390		Palestine, Shmeisani .....607071		Royal Wings (RW) Flights		06:15 .....Jeddah (add) (RJ)	
Anglican Church Tel. 652826		NIGHT DUTY		Public Security Department .....630321		Shmeisani Hospital .....609131		09:50 Aqaba (QAIA) — proceeds to Marka airport at 10:00 a.m. (RW)		06:35 .....Beirut (RJ)	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331		AMMAN:		Hotel Complaints .....605800		Al-Muasher Hospital. 66727/9		DEPARTURES		08:00 .....Bangkok (RJ)	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261		Dr. Isam Al Asmar .....890504		Price Complaints .....661176		Al-Islamic, Abdal 666126/37		Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights		09:45 .....Istanbul (RJ)	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751		Dr. Nidal As'ad .....751672		Water and Sewerage Complaints .....897467		Al-Ahli, Abdal .....664164/6		09:50 Aqaba (QAIA) — proceeds to Marka airport at 10:00 a.m. (RW)		12:00 .....Amsterdam (RJ)	
Amman International Church Tel. 652526		Dr. Khaldoun Klobab .....816715		Amman Municipality Complaints .....787111		Al-Muasher Hospital. 66727/9		DEPARTURES		12:30 .....Amsterdam, New York (RJ)	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824338		Dr. Osama Al-Husseini .....847289		Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121		Al-Islamic, Abdal 666126/37		Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights		13:00 .....Geneva, Madrid (RJ)	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457		Firas pharmacy .....661912		Overseas Calls .....010230		Al-Ahli, Abdal .....664164/6		06:15 .....Jeddah (add) (RJ)		13:10 .....Paris (RJ)	
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932		Ferdows pharmacy .....778336		Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....623101		Al-Muasher Hospital. 66727/9		06:35 .....Beirut (RJ)		13:15 .....Buenos Aires (RJ)	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691		Al Asema pharmacy .....637055		Abdali Telephone Repairs .....661101		Al-Islamic, Abdal 666126/37		08:00 .....Bangkok (RJ)		13:15 .....Cairo (RJ)	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295		Al Salam pharmacy .....636730		Jordan Television .....773111		Al-Muasher Hospital. 66727/9		09:45 .....Istanbul (RJ)		14:05 .....London (RJ)	
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190		Yacoub pharmacy .....644945		Radio Jordan .....774111		Al-Islamic, Abdal 666126/37		12:00 .....Amsterdam (RJ)		21:10 .....Lamaca (RJ)	
<b>WEATHER</b>		Shmeisani pharmacy .....637660		Water Authority .....680100		Al-Ahli, Abdal .....664164/6		12:30 .....Amsterdam, New York (RJ)		21:45 .....Bahrain, Doha (RJ)	
Moderate weather conditions will prevail with temperatures below average and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.		Najib pharmacy .....847632		Jordan Electricity Authority .....815615		Al-Muasher Hospital. 66727/9		13:00 .....Geneva, Madrid (RJ)		22:00 .....Dhahran (add) (RJ)	
Min./Max. temp. ....18/29		IRBID:		Electric Power Company .....636381		Al-Islamic, Abdal 666126/37		13:10 .....Paris (RJ)		22:20 .....Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)	
Aqaba .....24/37		Dr. Mazen Abu Balair .....276852		RJ Flight Information 08-53200		Al-Muasher Hospital. 66727/9		13:15 .....Buenos Aires (RJ)		Other Flights	
Deserts .....16/36		ZARQA:		Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200		Al-Islamic, Abdal 666126/37		14:05 .....London (RJ)		08:45 .....Beirut (ME)	
Jordan Valley .....23/36		Dr. Nabli Al Safarini .....901322		<b>HOSPITALS</b>		Al-Muasher Hospital. 66727/9		15:30 .....Vienna (OS)		14:30 .....Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (CF)	
Yesterday's high temperatures:		Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417		AMMAN:		Al-Islamic, Abdal 666126/37		16:00 .....Riyadh (SV)		16:00 .....Vienna (OS)	
		<b>EMERGENCIES</b>		Hussein Medical Centre .....813813/32		Al-Muasher Hospital. 66727/9		20:45 .....Cairo (MS)		20:45 .....Kuwait (KL)	
		Food Control Centre .....637111		Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn .....64281/6		Al-Islamic, Abdal 666126/37		21:15 .....London (BA)		21:25 .....Cairo (MS)	
		Civil Defence Department .....661111		Akileh Maternity, J. Amn .....642441/2		Al-Muasher Hospital. 66727/9		23:00 .....Lamaca (CY)		23:00 .....Paris, Damascus (AF)	
		Civil Defence Immediate Rescue .....630341		Jabal Amman Maternity .....642362		Al-Islamic, Abdal 666126/37		04:00 .....Amsterdam (KL)		04:00 .....Rome (AZ)	
		Civil Defence Emergency .....199				Al-Muasher Hospital. 66727/9		04:30 .....Antalia (TK)		06:40 .....London (KJ)	
		Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777				Al-Muasher Hospital. 66727/9		07:25 .....Tel Aviv (LY)			
		Fire Brigade .....617101				Al-Muasher Hospital. 66727/9					
		Blood Bank .....775121				Al-Muasher Hospital. 66727/9					

MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apricot	800/500
Apple	700/500
Banana	600/600
Banana (mukhammar)	520/520
Banana (imported)	830/600
Cabbage	210/140
Carrot	130/80
Cauliflower	220/160
Cucumber (large)	140/80
Cucumber (small)	240/140
Eggplant	200/120
Garlic	650/400
Lemon	680/450
Marrow (large)	200/120
Marrow (small)	330/200
Mulukhiyah	150/100
Onion (dry)	130/80
Okra	750/500
Orange	400/300
Plum	330/200
Pea	300/250
Peach	670/400
Pepper (hot)	340/220
Pepper (sweet)	320/220
Potato	270/180
String Bean	360/250
Sweet melon	220/150
Tomato	120/70
Water melon	100/70

## Deputies to discuss ethics of journalism

MAN (J.T.) — In an informal session, one on Monday, deputies will look into the ethics of journalism, said House Speaker Hani Snour.

Announcing the meeting Thursday, Mr. Snour said the deputies are expected to discuss what he called "certain practices" that have become a part of local news coverage, and also some news coverage of topics that are considered offensive to the public taste and "the Islamic faith."

"Such behaviour on the part of the press must be reformed and scrutinised by parliament members who have a serious responsibility and duty to the nation under the Constitution, and to find practical solutions that would end such malpractices," added Mr. Snour.

Mr. Snour said "parliament is keen on enabling the local press to function in a manner that would suit the atmosphere to carry out its mission in serving the nation."

The Monday meeting, he said, will be a good opportunity for the deputies to

## Queen joins commemoration

Her Majesty Queen Noor, U.S. Ambassador to Amman, Sweden, and the European Commission, will join the Jordanian Royal Family in commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The Queen will be accompanied by her children, Prince Hashem bin Talal and Princess Haya bint Hussein, and will arrive in Amman on Friday for the commemorative ceremony.

The ceremony will be held at the Jordanian National Theatre and will feature a performance by the Jordanian National Orchestra and the Jordanian National Ballet.



## Queen joins Bosnian women in Tuzla commemoration of Srebrenica women

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation headed by Her Majesty Queen Noor, U.S. Ambassador to Austria Swanne Hunt and Italy's Commissioner to the European Union Emma Bonino Thursday joined thousands of Bosnian women in Tuzla to commemorate the fall of Srebrenica, bringing with them economic development aid and international donations from countries throughout the world, a Royal Court statement said.

The donations included four tonnes of medical supplies from Jordan, half of which were donated by the Jordanian Pharmaceuticals Company; \$2.5 million from the European Union; \$100,000 from Pakistan as well as funds for women's economic development projects; equipment for a child-care centre from the Finnish government; several thousand dollar "micro-enterprises" loan funds from Bank Austria and Creditanstalt and a computer training laboratory from IBM, the statement said.

This visit came in commemoration of July 11, 1995, in Srebrenica, when a United Nations "safe haven," fell to advancing Serb forces.

The women and children of the town were separated from their menfolk and allowed to walk across nearby front lines to areas controlled by Bosnian government forces.

The men disappeared. At least 6,000 but possibly as many as 10,000 unarmed Muslim men and boys were killed after the fall of Srebrenica and buried in about a dozen mass-graves dotted throughout the hills surrounding the town.

The organisers of this commemorative event were Bosnian women refugees, now living in Tuzla, who had invited Serb and Croat women to be with them, saying simply "we are all mothers."

They created a giant banner embroidered with the names of their missing boys and men as a symbol of their unity in grief.

Joined by the Vice-President of Bosnia-Herzegovina Mr. Ganic, Bosnian and international officials and women activists, the women welcomed the delegation to Tuzla, the statement said.

According to the statement, in a speech Queen Noor assured the women of Srebrenica that they are not alone, saying that "the women of our land, too, have repeatedly borne the consequences of war and



Her Majesty Queen Noor looks at small banners with names, year of birth and birthplace of missing Srebrenica men during a commemoration of the first anniversary of the bloody fall of Srebrenica, at the sports arena in Tuzla Thursday. The interior of the sports hall was covered with thousands of such banners. World women leaders joined some 6,000 Bosnian Muslim refugee women for the ceremony (Reuters photo)

upheaval; they too have had to rebuild lives and communities shattered by years of strife."

Reciting the verse (200) from Surat Al Imran, "Believers, be patient and forbear. Stand firm in your faith and fear God, so that you may triumph," the Queen called on the women to reach out to a new future and forge a new life, with the assurance that their cause and suffering will never be forgotten.

The Queen appealed to all parties to implement the Dayton accords, in particular those provisions concerning the refugees and the displaced.

She said that the War Crimes Tribunal in "The Hague" affirms our collective will that savagery and barbarism must not be tolerated by the community of nations.

According to the statement, Queen Noor also highlighted Jordan's ongoing support to the peoples of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

At the outset, Jordan had called for a diplomatic solution to the conflict and for global action to stop the genocide and human suffering in Bosnia. Since 1992, the Jordan Hashemite Relief Organisation has been sending food, blankets, medical supplies and equipment to Bosnia. In 1993, Jordan hosted 94 Bosnian refugee families and provided them with housing, medical care and education.

The one-day telethon last year raised JD4.5 million as well as food, medical sup-

plies, clothes, building supplies, television and computer equipment. The Queen expressed her pride in the courage of the Jordanian peace keeping troops, who have been serving in the former Yugoslavia since 1992.

Ambassador Swanne Hunt recalled how, on the day Srebrenica fell to the Serb forces, she received a call from Queen Noor who said, "if we only watch this on the news, then we're guilty too."

The Queen had called Ambassador Hunt as the latter had assisted her in getting Bosnian children out of the country for medical treatment. This resulted in the establishment of the "Women of Srebrenica Project" with a steering committee chaired by Queen Noor, Swanne Hunt and Emma Bonino.

According to Ambassador Hunt, the committee's co-chairs sent out an open letter to first ladies, heads of state and prominent personalities asking for their support and drawing global attention to the plight of the women of Srebrenica.

She added that the Tuzla commemorative event came on the heels of U.S. President Bill Clinton's announcement at the G-7 meeting of a \$5 million donation to fund the Bosnian women's initiative, a portion of which will be allocated for economic development projects for the women of Srebrenica.

The ambassador concluded her speech saying that this delegation to Tuzla represents 500 international

women leaders, who have come "to honour your boys and men and to pray that the banner you have so painfully embroidered will become a blanket to comfort and warm the children of Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Commissioner Emma Bonino reaffirmed the commitment of the European Humanitarian Organisation to the women of Bosnia to help them "build a future of peace, justice and tolerance for yourself and your children."

The statement also said that there are 30,000 survivors of the Srebrenica massacre living in the area of Tuzla in temporary ill-equipped refugee camps.

The survivors are mothers, sisters, daughters and wives who are desperate to know the fate of their missing men and to have those responsible brought to justice.

They are women on whom their community's entire fate depends and who simply want to go home.

According to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, only 70,000 of the 2 million refugees and displaced persons have returned to their homes and ethnic cleansing is still being continued on a local level.

According to the statement, Queen Noor was accompanied by HRH Prince Zeid Ben Raad, who had served in the former Yugoslavia for two years as the United Nations' Political Affairs Officer.

prosecution completed its investigations and that the case was transferred to the First Instance Court and a date will be set soon to start hearing the case.

The formal charges against Mr. Salah, 24, include overlooking objectivity, honesty and accuracy in reporting on news, publishing inaccurate news, slandering individuals, and tarnishing the reputation and dignity of public employees while performing their duties.

A request to free Mr. Salah on bail Thursday was turned down by the prosecutor general.

If convicted, Mr. Salah could be sentenced to up to two years in prison, Mr. Zogby told the Jordan Times Friday.

On Thursday Reporter Sans Frontiers, the Paris-based special interest group which promotes journalists' rights worldwide, appealed to His Majesty King Hussein to defend press freedoms and protested against the detention of Mr. Salah.

In a letter to the King the organisation said: "Reporters Sans Frontiers asks you to use your influence to secure the immediate release of Na'el Salah."

Mr. Zogby added that the

## Jordan, Yemen start money transfer service

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Yemen started exchanging postal money transfers as of July 11, in implementation of an agreement concluded earlier between both countries, according to Minister of Post and Telecommunications Jamal Sarairoh. Mr. Sarairoh said that, under the agreement, post offices in Jordan will accept money transfers up to JD 280 each, to be sent to Yemen, and the Yemeni post offices will accept cash transfers up to \$ 500 to be sent to Jordan. Yemen is the ninth country with which Jordan exchanges money transfers via their respective postal systems. The other countries are Morocco, Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Algeria, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Japan.

## Deputies visit RJ facility, say report due in fall

AMMAN (J.T.) — The chairman of a parliamentary study committee Friday said that the committee would submit its "thorough and unbiased" report on the status of Royal Jordanian (RJ) to parliament in its upcoming October session.

Members of the committee met with RJ President and Chief Executive Officer Nader Dahabi as well as other senior assistants during a visit to the recently opened Dispatch Centre and the City Terminal.

Responding to questions from the press on the progress of the examination of RJ operations and administration, Dr. Mohammad Abu Aleem said the study was coming along well, adding that "in its investigations, the committee does not seek to level accusations at any party, but rather it is conducting a national service as requested by the Lower House and will present

their findings in a full and clear picture which should satisfy the deputies' quest for the truth."

According to Dr. Abu Aleem, "the committee is also finalising a study on RJ's plans for restructuring its operations and activities as well as rescheduling its debts."

He said that during Friday's visit, committee members had an opportunity to pose questions to Mr. Dahabi, particularly on the new City Terminal and its advantages to RJ passengers.

Dr. Aleem said panel members were satisfied with Mr. Dahabi's responses and quoted him as saying that 17 per cent of the RJ passengers currently use the facility and he expects increasing numbers of passengers to turn to the Seventh Circle station.

Last March, the five-member committee came under criticism by local

newspaper columnist Fahed Fanek. Dr. Fanek said the 12-day trip to Europe during which the committee visited RJ offices in Madrid, London and Rome was a waste of public funds that would achieve no purpose.

Dr. Fanek said the trip was unnecessary because the deputies "could have reviewed all the facts they needed about the national airline from its headquarters in Amman."

But Dr. Aleem said at the time that the parliament found it necessary to send the committee to Europe after receiving numerous complaints about RJ's outstations; performance in both Arab and foreign countries.

Dr. Abu Aleem had said that the committee would continue its mission regardless of any criticisms and would seek to provide all necessary information about RJ's position.

## Award of refinery contract appropriate, says Dabbas

By Samir Ghawi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ahmad Bashir, secretary-general of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Friday stressed that the decision to award the contract for building a refinery at Aqaba to Corporate Holdings of America (CHA), was appropriate and was based on intensive studies that gave the highest attention to the interest of the country.

Speaking to the Arabic daily Al-Dustour, Mr. Bashir said, "CHA, was a holding company with a \$1.5-billion capital. He was responding to allegations by the president of the Dallas-based consultancy Hutchison Group, the firm that lost the bid, that his group, which includes Texas-based construction firm H.B. Zachry International and California-based engineering group Parsons Corp., was unjustly treated by the ministry when

it selected CHA for the project.

In an interview with the Arabic weekly Shihani, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Hashem Dabbas confirmed what his secretary-general has told Al-Dustour and denied as untrue that CHA was a weak company and that its capital was limited to enable it to carry out this project. He stressed that "until now there are no problems regarding the company which was recommended to us by the U.S. government."

Noting that the company was recommended by the U.S. commerce chief, who confirmed the information, and that the U.S. ambassador and the economic attaché at the U.S. embassy were present when the preliminary agreement was signed, Dr. Dabbas asked: "Is it logical that these Americans recommend a non-existent company?"

Asked about the company's capabilities and special-

ity, the minister told Shihani that all companies have "people who do the financing and people who do the administration... that means you cannot find a specialised company in all these areas for this project."

The minister indicated that CHA will be submitting a performance guarantee by the middle of this month, although he did not mention what would be its value. "We will agree to it. Truthfully we are not paying a single fil. This project will be built and financed from outside. Jordan has not paid a fil."

Dr. Dabbas described as a lie and untrue allegations that the agreement will siphon out \$700 million from the local liquidity. He explained that CHA opened the opportunity for Jordanians, if they wanted, to buy shares in the project, and if they are not willing, nobody will force them to buy. "The financing will come from outside," he emphasised.

Replying to another question, Dr. Dabbas said the company was free to buy the equipment from anywhere because the refinery belonged to them and Jordan's involvement was in providing the site.

He denied that the second U.S. competitor that lost the bid had offered better terms especially the employment of 15,000 Jordanians. "Don't listen to them. They did not offer anything and I challenge them if they had offered anything."

The minister said that the company's 1993 registration date was not important and all that matters is its \$1.2 billion capital. "We have official documents from the U.S. administration to prove that."

Dr. Dabbas told the interviewer who asked him about rumours that commissions were paid to Jordanians: "Fear God. Whoever told you this is a liar. No commissions were paid and none will be," he emphasised.

## Tokyo gathering looks at Jordan's investment climate

TOKYO (Petra) — A one-day symposium aimed at promoting investments in Jordan, and sponsored by the Jordanian embassy here, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the Japanese Institute for Foreign Investments, was held Friday.

Addressing the symposium, which was held as part of a special programme agreed upon by the Jordanian embassy in Tokyo and the UNIDO office, was Jordanian Ambassador to Japan Farouq Qasrawi, who reviewed the latest government measures and facilities to encourage investments in Jordan.

Also addressing the symposium was Director of the Studies Unit at the Investment Encouragement Department Mohammad Jawabrah, who spoke about new Jordanian economic legislation, including the Investment Encouragement Law and related regulations, the revised Income Tax Law, and customs exemptions, all meant to promote foreign investment in Jordan.

A second symposium will be held on Aug. 1 in Osaka in cooperation with the International Trade Centre at Osaka.

## U.S. seeks formula to keep Arabs, Israelis engaged

(Continued from page 1)

Netanyahu placed the Clinton administration in an awkward position for fear that a premature discussion of the issue, prior to the start of the final status negotiations, could seriously undermine the peace process.

The administration has yet to find a way out of this awkward situation. It will have to reassure the Arabs that the peace process is meaningful but without casting doubts on its commitment to the security of Israel," said a well-informed American source. A group of over 150 rab-

bis, from the Jewish Peace Foundation, have called on the administration to cut down aid to Israel if the current government expanded the Israeli settlements but the Clinton administration was unlikely to heed such calls.

## Fresh financing to boost economy

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Mansour noted that the money will not be disbursed to the Kingdom in one lump sum saying that it will be transferred at each stage of the development of each project.

He said that most of the projects were proposed in the Middle East and North Africa economic summit (MENA) which was held in Amman in October 1995.

In a press conference on Thursday, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti told reporters that the aid to Jordan was accounted for in the budget adding that the decision to grant \$1 billion was conditional on Jordan's ability to continue with its International Monetary Fund (IMF)-sponsored economic reform programme.

The meeting in Paris, which was attended by 40 countries as well as the IMF, the World Bank and other international institutions, was the third to be organised by donor countries to study the Kingdom's economic performance.

Jordan this year started a new three-year economic reform programme which will allow it to receive \$295 million extended fund facilities in return for steps to further liberalise the economy.

An IMF official has recently said that the Kingdom was meeting the target of the IMF-agreed reforms and was heading towards attaining the 6.5 per cent economic growth forecast for 1996.

He added that Jordan was on track towards meeting its target of bringing its foreign reserves to \$600 million which can cover the import bill for three months.

The structural reform programme follows successful efforts for monetary stabilisation that were agreed with the IMF.

The Jordanian delegation to the meeting in Paris was headed by Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf who was accompanied by Minister of Finance Marwan Awad, Central Bank Governor Ziad Fariz, Economic Advisor at the Prime Ministry Basem Aswadallah as well as other officials.

## 'Deputies to discuss ethics of journalism'

AMMAN (J.T.) — In another informal session, this one on Monday, deputies will look into the ethics of journalism, said Lower House Speaker Saad Hayel Srour.

In announcing the meeting on Thursday, Mr. Srour said the deputies are expected to discuss what he called "certain practices on the part of local newspapers concerning national unity and also some newspapers' coverage of topics that are considered offensive to the public taste and ethics of Islam."

"Such behaviour on the part of the press must be reviewed and scrutinised by parliament members who have a serious responsibility and duty to the nation under the Constitution, and to find practical solutions that would end such malpractices," added Mr. Srour.

Mr. Srour said "parliament is keen on enabling the local press to function in a climate of democracy and in a manner that would secure for the media the right atmosphere to carry out its mission in serving the nation."

The Monday meeting, he said, will be a good opportunity for the deputies to

exchange ideas on these two questions adding that "our responsibility is a common one as parliamentarians and we should cooperate in avoiding blunders and seek ways to put matters right through democratic dialogue."

It was during last week's informal parliament meeting in the presence of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti that Mr. Srour brought up the idea of convening a special meeting to discuss these two issues.

Under the Press and Publication Law of 1992, "the media is restricted or prohibited from the publication of articles or materials that might harm national unity or instigate crime or increase hatred and conflict in society."

Parliament is currently in recess, but informed sources say that it will be summoned for an extraordinary session on July 15 during which only topics listed in a Royal Decree can be discussed, in accordance with the Constitution.

## Tabloid editor to stand trial on slander charges

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Na'el Salah, editor of a weekly tabloid, will stand trial at the Amman Court of First Instance in the next few weeks on charges of slander and lack of accuracy in reporting. Mr. Salah was arrested Thursday at the Al-Haqika offices.

Prosecutor General Jamal Zogby said he issued the arrest order after the director of the Customs Department, Nazmi Abdullah, complained that the weekly newspaper, Al-Haqika (the Truth), published an article accusing Mr. Abdullah and the department employees of being involved in bribery.

In its report, the four-month-old tabloid charged that the director of the Customs Department and its employees were committing violations and were accepting bribes.

According to Mr. Zogby, when interrogated, Mr. Salah said he had no sources or evidence to support his allegations in the article that was recently published and entitled "Serious violations in the Customs Department."

Mr. Zogby added that the

WHAT'S GOING ON	
<b>Lecture</b>	Rashid Dababneh entitled "The Time of Silence" at Dar al-Fa'wan, Jabal Westdeh. Also playing works by contemporary Arab artists, until July 31.
<b>EXHIBITIONS</b>	Black and White paintings exhibition of works conducted in half a century (1912-1966), entitled "Hawass Damash" at the French Cultural Centre, until July 20.
	Ceramics exhibition at Jordan Design and Trade Centre, off Wadi Sa'ra Street, Tel. 5991412, until July 25.
	Exhibition of works by Sudanese artists at the University Expo Show University Road, until July 14.
	Exhibition of works by Sudanese artists at the International Trade Centre at Osaka.



## Couple to be tried for son's suicide

## Dole defends civil rights record in NAACP row

"We'll figure some way to meet with the hard-of-hearing voters," Sen. Dole also said in the interview that he hoped 1992 independent presidential candidate Ross Perot stays out of the race this year. "I could hear the

The crew of 24 Indians, two Ukrainians and one Burmese took to the lifeboats after fire broke out shortly after midnight.

Navy vessels and helicopters were scrambled and the men were finally picked up by two local fishing boats.

The Tolten, which was carrying 12,500 tonnes of copper and several containers, was still ablaze Friday morning 20 miles off shore near the Duwamish river.

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The Toltén, which was carrying 12,500 tonnes of copper and several containers, was still ablaze Friday morning 20 miles off shore, near the Dawson coast.

Chechen rebels carry an injured woman attempting to escape from the village of Gekhi, some 35 kilometres south of Grozny. Russian President Boris Yeltsin's pre-election pledges to end the war in Chechnya appear to have come in nothing as fighting rages anew and talk of peace has given way to harsh rhetoric and more bloodshed and refugees (Renter photo)

## Chic French resort to give tops to the tonless

bids people from walking in the town "in a bathing suit, bare-chested or indecently dressed."

not want to be a burden, the state-run Telam news agency reported. He shot himself in the temple before the employee could finish reading the letter.

vision series Mash, was charged with beating his wife, an attorney said. Deputy City Attorney Mitchell Fox said the misdemeanor spousal battery

charge arose from an incident at the couple's home in the Brentwood area earlier this month when Barbara Morgan, 70, called

Barbara Morgan, 70, called police to say her 81-year-old husband of nearly 10

newspapers reported Tuesday. The skulls were dumped in four sacks in the Falgu River in Gaya region, home to Buddhist

hines, and the police were alerted to them Monday by residents, the dailies said. The Hindustan Times quoted police as saying the skulls were about one year old, but it was not clear how they came to be in the

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# N. Ireland

## by protes

just before Northern Ireland's police officers' **Friday** strike, which was the first in which gun-armed police officers took part.

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McGuinness of Sinn Féin, the  
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can follow the marches left  
ation of the peace process.

...the going to negotiate the final political and constitutional settlement is required if there is peace in this country."

## Hurricanes

On approach

hundreds of thousands of people along the North and South Carolina coast.

Friday. But the top winds dropped to 112 mph (128 kph). It remained a giant 400 miles wide (640 kilometres), northernly turn





Firefighters stand near the engine of a downed F-16 U.S. Air Force jet that crashed into a house Thursday, in Pensacola, Florida (Reuters photo)

## U.S. F-16 jet fighter crashes in residential area

PENSACOLA, Florida (R) — An F-16 jet fighter being flown from South Carolina to avoid hurricane Bertha crashed into a residential neighbourhood in this Florida city Thursday, destroying one house and damaging another, officials said.

Police said one woman and one man on the ground were taken to local hospitals after the crash. One child who may have been in the house destroyed by a fire remained missing about two hours later.

A second child, initially reported as missing, was found in good condition, a spokesman for the Pensacola Police Department said.

The injured woman, identified as Robin Cannon, 31, was sent to West Florida Regional Medical Centre, a local hospital, where she was stabilised before being airlifted to the burn unit at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Alabama.

A spokeswoman at West Florida Regional said Mr.

Cannon was in stable condition. She had no other information about any other crash victims being brought to that hospital.

Military officials said the jet was flying to Eglin Air Force Base near Pensacola, at the western end of Florida's panhandle, near Shaw Air Force Base, near Sumter, South Carolina when it crashed.

The aircraft went down at about 3:30 edt (1930 GMT), said an Eglin Air Force Base spokeswoman. "We do

know that it did go down. The pilot ejected," she said, adding that the base had sent a crew to investigate.

A spokeswoman for the Pensacola Police Department said police had been told the plane was loaded with munitions, and that the pilot had ejected safely.

Homes in the area surrounding the crash site were being evacuated as the air force searched for the jet's weapons. Pensacola police said.

## N. Ireland peace shaken by protests, shootings

BELFAST (R) — Northern Ireland's peace process appeared in jeopardy Friday after a wave of violent protests in which gunmen shot and wounded three policemen.

Police allowed another Protestant hardliners' march to go ahead through a Catholic area of Belfast Friday after a night of Catholic protests against the annual Orange Order marches.

The overnight violence erupted after police reversed a ban on an orange order parade through a Roman Catholic section of Portadown, south of Belfast, Thursday.

During the night youths hijacked vehicles and set them ablaze to protest against what they said was the trampling of their rights by activists of the Protestant majority.

Police said 40 civilians and 11 police officers were hurt in six hours of rioting in Londonderry. Northern Ireland's largely Catholic second city. More than 900 petrol bombs were thrown. Police replied with plastic bullets.

Martin McGuinness of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, said Friday the police decision to allow the marches left little expectations of the peace process.

"The British government and the Unionist political leadership are not interested in even negotiating a route through a Catholic area," said Mr. McGuinness.

"If they're not interested in negotiating a route through a Catholic area, it's hardly likely they're going to negotiate the fundamental political and constitutional change we all know is required if there is to be future peace in this country."

Cardinal Cahal Daly, leader of Ireland's Catholics, Friday attacked the decision to let the Portadown march proceed.

"This was a wrong decision, a disastrously wrong decision. I feel it will have very negative consequences..." Card. Daly said in a radio interview. "I, with regret, have to

say that I feel betrayed, betrayed by the British government."

Irish Prime Minister John Bruton, Britain's partner in efforts to find a peace deal, has also told British Prime Minister John Major the decision was mistaken.

Mr. Bruton told Mr. Major of the "widespread anger and deep concern in Ireland about the decision," Dublin officials said.

The overnight violence and the shootings mark a serious turn for the worse in the situation in Northern Ireland.

Police said two officers were shot overnight in the mainly Catholic, Irish nationalist Ardoyne area of Belfast and a third was hit in the New Lodge area, another Catholic stronghold.

None of the injuries was life-threatening and two were later released from hospital, a police spokesman said.

No group claimed responsibility for shooting the three policemen, who were thought to be the first victims of sniper attacks in the province since IRA guerrillas called a truce in August 1994 in its war against British rule of Northern Ireland.

On Friday, lines of riot police, backed by troops, threw a security cordon around the lower Ormeau Road near the centre of Belfast, keeping Roman Catholic residents off the road.

Roman Catholic residents, some of whom were hemmed into their homes by armoured police vehicles, shouted taunts at police and marchers as the parade went through.

Northern Ireland has enjoyed an uneasy calm since the ceasefire, which was matched soon after by Protestant loyalists, who want the province to stay British.

The Irish Republican Army resumed its war in February with a series of bombings in London but has not mounted any attacks in Northern Ireland.

## China offers more food aid to N. Korea

BEIJING (R) — China has offered 100,000 tonnes of food to North Korea to prevent famine after floods destroyed crops last year, injecting new warmth into ties between the Communist neighbours that had cooled in recent years.

"The Chinese Communist Party and the government decided to provide further free grain aid to (North) Korea to ease its domestic grain shortages," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

"Our main aim is to demonstrate the friendship between China and North Korea," an official of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation told Reuters.

In line with that friendship, China decided to give North Korea 100,000 tonnes in food aid to mark the 35th anniversary of a treaty of friendship and mutual assistance, he said.

"The type of aid and the time of delivery have yet to be decided," the trade official said, adding that it was too early to say whether delivery of the food would be completed in 1996.

The aid was announced by Chinese state councillor Luo Gan at a meeting with North Korean Vice President Ri Jong-Ok in Pyongyang Thursday.

China earlier announced 10,000 tonnes of rice and a similar amount of corn in food aid to Pyongyang in a package to help North Korea after the worst floods in a century ravaged much of the country last year.

The United Nations has launched a \$43.6 million appeal for food aid for North Korea, widely reported to be on the brink of famine.

The latest food package appeared to signal an upswing in relations between China and North Korea, once described as being "as close as lips and teeth."

Ties cooled after Beijing forged diplomatic links with Seoul in 1992.

Several years ago, China started insisting on hard cash from Pyongyang for grain and other goods, moving away from barter trade and dealing a serious blow to the North Korean economy.

## Hurricane Bertha weakens on approach to U.S. coast

WILMINGTON, N.C. (R) — Hurricane Bertha weakened Thursday as it chugged toward the Carolina coast after sending thousands of vacationers packing and forcing residents to board up homes and hoard supplies.

Hundreds of thousands of people along the North and South Carolina coasts were under evacuation orders and emergency shelters were opened as authorities urged homeowners to brace for heavy rain and hurricane-force winds Friday. But the storm's top winds dropped to 80 mph (128 kph), though it remained a giant about 400 miles wide (640 kilometres).

Bertha's northerly turn Wednesday spared the Olympic yachting venue on the Georgia coast, which had evacuated some 250

athletes and staff from a marina on Wilmington Island. Tom Fisher, a spokesman for the Olympic yachting events, said athletes would return to the site Friday to resume practice for the Olympics, due to start late next week.

South Carolina ordered evacuation of beachfront residents in Horry and Georgetown counties, including the popular resort town of Myrtle Beach. The order did not include the historic coastal city of Charleston. Officials estimated there are 300,000 tourists on the state's coast at this time of year.

"I ask all of you to please protect yourselves and your families by moving inland immediately," South Carolina Gov. David Beasley said in a statement. "We will be in your neighbour-

hoods to watch over your homes while you are gone."

North Carolina evacuated its outer banks, affecting an estimated 50,000 residents and tourists, and heavy traffic clogged the two-lane coastal roads. In Wilmington, North Carolina, where forecasters predicted Bertha would likely come ashore Friday afternoon, gas stations and grocery stores were jammed.

"I bought film to take before and after pictures for insurance purposes, in case there's damage," said 25-year-old Michael Satrazemis.

The fringes of the storm reached Wrightsville Beach near Wilmington Thursday afternoon. Heavy surf gobbled up chunks of the beach, and police went door-to-door, telling people to leave.

## New bus bomb injures 20 in Moscow; extra forces drafted in

MOSCOW (R) — Russian authorities ordered more than 1,000 extra Interior Ministry troops into Moscow Friday after a bomb tore through a trolleybus in the morning rush-hour — the second such attack in two days.

The blast, caused by a bomb left under a seat on the bus in the northeast of the city, injured more than 20 people, some of them seriously, police and health officials said.

Police withdrew an early report that one person had been killed.

President Boris Yeltsin, reelected nine days ago to four more years in office, called immediately for tough action against terrorism. He said the city of nine million people was "infested with terrorists."



Experts work inside a blown-up trolleybus on Prospekt Mira (Peace Avenue) in Moscow Friday (Reuters photo)

Moscow authorities announced a crackdown on undesirables in the city, particularly on ethnic groups from the Caucasus region where the Chechenya conflict is raging.

Interior Ministry troops Commander Anatoly Shkirko said he was drafting more than 1,000 extra men into the capital to help city police ensure public safety.

Moscow's Mayor Yuri Luzhkov said Friday's blast was caused by a bomb made of 300 grammes (more than half a pound) of TNT left under a seat in the centre of a No. 48 bus.

"We are witnessing a system of terrorist acts," Mr. Luzhkov told a news conference after visiting the scene of the blast on Prospekt Mira, a thoroughfare in the northeast of the city.

State security officials at the scene said the bomb had been left in a sports bag similar to that containing a bomb which exploded Thursday on another trolleybus closer to the city centre. Five people were injured in that attack.

The single-deck trolleybuses, which draw power from overhead cables and lumber slowly through the city, are a popular and easy mode of hop-on, hop-off transport for thousands of Muscovites.

Mr. Luzhkov said there

could be two explanations for the bombings.

Ooe was that the attacks were linked to threats by Checheno-Ingushetia fighters to bring their struggle to the capital. The other was that the criminal world was responding to latest measures by Mr. Yeltsin and his security supremo, General Alexander Lebed, to step up the fight against crime in Moscow.

"With a certain degree of certainty we can see a possible Chechen line and it is not an idle thought," Mr. Luzhkov said.

In comments that boded ill for ethnic Caucasians in Moscow, as well as the capital's criminals, Mr. Luzhkov said: "We intend to cleanse Moscow not only of homeless down-and-outs but also those elements that we consider dangerous."

ITAR-TASS news agency said it was clear from Mr. Luzhkov's comments that measures would be taken against "visitors from the south" — a euphemism meaning people from the north Caucasus region as well as from the independent Transcaucasian states.

Officials stressed Friday that there was no hard evidence to tie the blasts to Chechen rebels. Kremlin troops have been bogged

down in bitter fighting in Chechenya against separatists since December 1994.

Asked if there could be a link to the Chechenya conflict, a state security spokesman said Friday: "I would not hurry to this conclusion. Possibly it was linked to the one yesterday."

Mr. Yeltsin made his remarks to top state security officials as he presented Nikolai Kovalyov as the new director of the Federal Security Service (FSB), successor to the KGB police.

The carbon-copy bombing Friday appeared to lay down a particular challenge to Gen. Lebed, who Wednesday was given the task of fighting crime in the capital by Mr. Yeltsin.

Bombers also struck on Moscow's underground railway on June 11 in an attack in which four people were killed and many injured.

"The latest bomb was sure to heighten tension in the capital, which is recovering from a bruising presidential election campaign in which law-and-order and the growing crime wave was a top issue."

Temperatures of people are also frayed by a heatwave which has driven temperatures up to 35 centigrade

(95 Fahrenheit).

Trolleybus No. 48 was turned into a scorched hulk of twisted metal by the blast. Shards of glass were scattered over a wide area.

An eyewitness said passengers scrambled to get out through the windows after the blast.

"I woke up when I heard the bang and saw the trolleybus standing there. People were trying to get out of the window, to get out, however, they could. It was terrible, painful," said Viktor Shlyakhtin.

President Yeltsin, speaking after the second bomb attack, called Friday for tough action against terrorism in the Russian capital, Interfax News Agency reported.

Mr. Yeltsin told senior officials of the Federal Security Service that Moscow was "infested with terrorists" and "firm measures had to be taken together with city authorities, Interfax said."

ITAR-TASS quoted Mr. Yeltsin as saying he had signed a decree on fighting terrorism in Russia but it gave no details.

A separate Interfax report said Moscow police had stepped up patrols in the city after Friday's blast.

## Heavy fighting resumes in Liberian countryside

MONROVIA (AP) — Fierce fighting this week in eastern Liberia has driven thousands from their homes, while disease is ravaging the ranks of refugees from earlier fighting.

The latest territorial battle is between Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia and George Boley's Liberia Peace Council in the provincial town of Zwedru, 180 miles (290 kilometres) southeast of the capital, Monrovia, military sources said Thursday.

The four-day battle intensified Wednesday when Mr. Boley's fighters moved in from the port city of Greenville, 130 miles (200 kilometres) southeast of Monrovia, and launched a fierce assault on Mr. Taylor's positions in Zwedru.

Earlier this week, an estimated 3,000 Liberians fleeing fighting in surrounding Grand Bedeh county crossed into the Ivory Coast border town of Tabou, which is already crammed with tens of thousands of refugees from the 6 1/2-year civil war.

Monrovia itself remains calm following nearly two months of fighting in April and May that wrecked much of the city and killed hundreds of people. A truce took hold on May 27 and militiamen left the city, but their return to the countryside has led to renewed fighting in several regions.

Disease is sweeping through the ranks of refugees. Cholera and m

claimed scores of lives among 20,000 displaced people in northern Margibi county following the closure last month of the only clinic operated by the relief agency, Doctors Without Borders.

Local health workers told reporters Thursday that at least 10 people have been dying each day since the epidemics broke out two weeks ago. Most of the victims have been children.

Meanwhile, international relief agencies have accused Alhaji Kromah's ULIMO-K rebel factions of holding hundreds of people hostage to attract help from humanitarian groups and then keeping the food for their militiamen.

Doctors Without Borders

and the Freech aid group Action Against Famine said in a news release that 1,300 displaced people were rounded up by ULIMO-K and taken to the town of Suchu, 19 miles (30 kilometres) north of Monrovia.

"Apparently, the faction wants to attract humanitarian assistance, food aid in particular, by starving the detainees," the news release said.

A ULIMO-K representative denied the charges and said the displaced people had come to them seeking refuge. The group had only put out calls for humanitarian assistance so they could feed the displaced, the representative said.

Much work is being done by the prince's trust, Prince Charles's charity to assist disadvantaged young people.

After leaving Brixton, Mr. Mandela headed for Trafalgar Square, site of South Africa's diplomatic mission which was the focus of Britain's well-organised anti-apartheid movement.

Crowds streamed into central London to welcome Mr. Mandela, who was expected to speak from the balcony overlooking the square.

"It must not be forgotten that the masses of the people in this country and elsewhere, were in the forefront of the anti-apartheid struggle," Mr. Mandela said in an interview on his arrival in Britain.

"It is absolutely necessary, now that we have succeeded, to go and thank them for their contribution. And I am looking forward to going to Brixton."

## Brixton dances for joy to welcome hero Mandela

LONDON (R) — Nelson Mandela was feted by thousands of cheering, dancing blacks as Brixton in South London gave an ecstatic welcome to the South African president on the emotional high point of his state visit to Britain.

Mr. Mandela beamed broadly throughout his 80-minute tour of the rundown inner city area, home to one of Britain's biggest black communities. He said it was the "fulfilment of a dream" to finally visit Brixton.

After dancing joyfully with a women's group, he was mobbed on his first walkabout of the four-day tour through a local market.

His motorcade was swamped by crowds wanting to touch the hand of their hero.

People stood 10 to 15 deep behind barriers, on rooftops and on the platforms of a railway station overlooking the Brixton Recreation Centre where Mr. Mandela's visit started.

"We want Nelson, we want Nelson," the crowd chanted as Mr. Mandela, accompanied by heir to the throne Prince Charles, climbed the steps to receive a bouquet of flowers and a kiss from a local black girl.

In the streets below, dancing crowds spread as far as the eye could see as reggae music blasted out of a huge sound system. A giant sign on the front of the centre read "siyakwamkela madiba e Brixton", welcoming the 77-year-old South African leader.

In a short speech Mr. Mandela said he had been looking forward for months to his visit to Brixton.

"It is literally a fulfilment of a dream that I have been a visitor to this place," Mr. Mandela said.

"Although many of you in this audience are comparatively young and may not have taken part in the anti-apartheid struggle, I want to tell you that Britain, especially London and the com-

munity of Brixton, were the heartland of the anti-apartheid struggle.

"You regarded that as your own struggle and it gives me great pleasure to be able to stand on this soil and be able to thank you for what you did."

"I want to show I love each and everyone of you without exception," said Mr. Mandela, triggering a chorus of "we love you" from the multi-racial crowd in the centre.

Mr. Mandela has been lionised by royalty, parliament and above all the people on a state visit which has featured unparalleled scenes of excitement and hero-worship among reserved Britons.

Inside the centre, entertained by a steel band and a gospel choir, Mr. Mandela was shown how Brixton, hit by racial tension and riots in the 1980s, was trying to entice employers to the area and give young people a sense of purpose.

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# Features

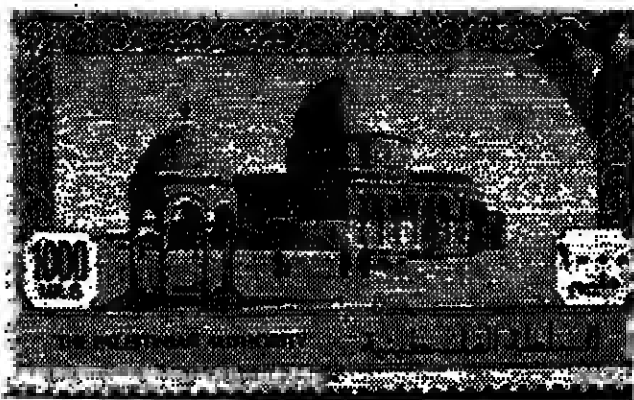
## PNA stamps — growing pains for post offices, collectors

By Dr. Jay Levinson

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has begun issuing stamps and forwarding letters, a feat not without problems considering that there was no postal system and setting up one takes some pioneering effort.

Following the Oslo accord, the nascent PNA printed a quick, definitive set of four stamps, each in another colour and depicting the national coat of arms. A larger multi-coloured series was then quickly issued, but problems quickly ensued. The difficulty was not the pictures, some of which were sites in Jerusalem which is not in the domain of the PNA. The series was printed in denominations from five to 1,000 mills. The Israeli objection was to the monetary unit, reminiscent of the old British Mandate coinage. So, the stamps in the large series were overprinted with same values, but now renamed fils.

As relates Ahmad Gharib, a veteran Gaza postal employee who started work in the Egyptian period before the June 1967 war and now heads the PNA Philatelic Bureau, the relatively few mills stamps,



which were not overprinted, are still valid for postage, but only within the PNA.

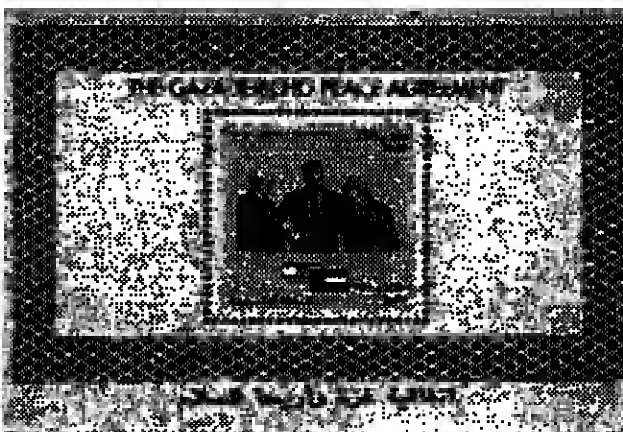
Wallach, a veteran Israeli collector, has ample examples of stamps used to the contrary.



They may not be used for postage from the PNA to Israel nor to destinations abroad. Those are the official rules, but Dr. Joseph

Not all problems have been caused by Israel. A souvenir sheet in mills was issued to herald the "Gaza-Jericho Peace Agreement."

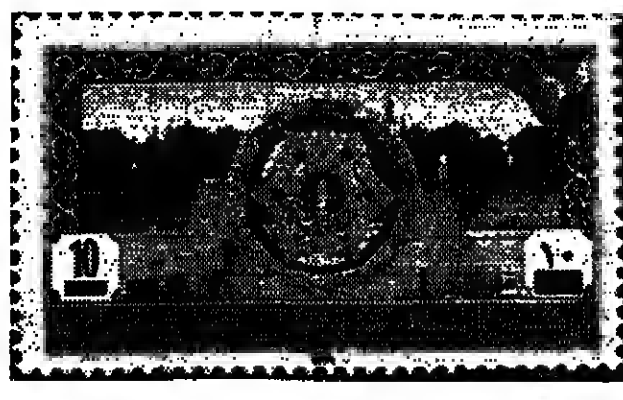
Pictured without names were Yasser Arafat, Yitzak Rabin and Bill Clinton. When the instruction was received to change the monetary unit, the sheets were overprinted not only with "fils," but also "Nobel Peace Prize" and the names Arafat, Rabin and Peres.



The growing pains of the post office continued. The agreements with Israel specified very clearly that all stamps must clearly show the words "Palestinian National Authority". So it was with the next series on which "Palestinian National Authority" appears in both English and Arabic. The subject of the stamps, however, was reproductions of the British

Mandate stamps. This made newspaper headlines as some Israelis charged that the Mandate stamps labelled "Palestine" was a political tactic.

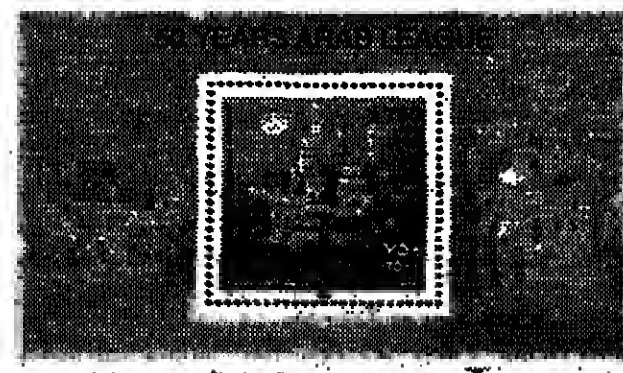
And there was another problem. After the issue of a commemorative series showing traditional cos-



on all the stamps in the series.

In Jordan, the Philatelic Bureau processes orders from around the world with standing orders for those who want all new issues.

Central Post Office. Orders for stamps can be processed, but there are no first day covers nor post office opening envelopes. Bookkeeping is also strictly manual, and one must send



That is the goal of the PNA Philatelic Bureau which is headquartered at the Gaza

cash by registered mail. According to Gharib, the banking system is not yet

set up to clearing cheques quickly.

Buying stamps in the post office in the PNA is not as simple as it sounds. Experience has shown that postal clerks tend to be friendly. The problem is purely philatelic. Not all stamps have been distributed to all post offices, so "buying everything" does not insure acquiring full sets of all issues. There are labels for airmail and registry, but there are still no aerogrammes, postcards or international reply coupons. If you send a letter to the PNA, do not expect it to arrive quickly. Last month, this author sent a registered letter from Jerusalem to the post office in Gaza. The letter did arrive, three weeks later.

Slowly but surely the mail is moving. Originally, all PNA mail was forwarded via Israel. Now, most foreign mail still takes this route. Items to the Arab World, however, go directly from the West Bank via Jordan and from Gaza via Egypt.

So, if you see unusual stamps on letters in your mail, you know where they came from. There is only one more catch. The stamps show up only on postcards and letters. The PNA still

## Indian barmaids gear up to oppose crackdown

By Clarence Fernandez  
Reuters

BOMBAY — Sirobe lights revolve overhead, cutting the flared skirts of dancers swaying to the lift of Indian love songs into brightly coloured segments.

Dust wafts in the light that swirls around the dancers and few drinkers in the bar seem to notice the smell of sweat and stale food that clings tightly about them.

But this typical night on the tiles for thousands of blue-collar workers who cannot afford Bombay's swankier watering holes may soon be a thing of the past.

The rightwing government of India's wealthiest state of Maharashtra has recently vowed to tighten enforcement of the regulations that govern the city's 55,000 bars.

Good-looking waitresses provide patrons a mild dose of titillation in an estimated 2,700 of these bars as they serve expensive liquor. Women also work as dancers and singers, belting out popular film songs.

But in the grey early hours of morning, some of the waitresses may satisfy clients' more basic needs,

too, the police believe.

"It is a cover for all kinds of things," said a top police official who did not want to be identified. "As the crime graph rises, we have no option but to check these activities."

Besides, the rising incidents of late night violence, involving waitresses on their way home from work, have aroused authorities' fears, he said.

Bombay's police force has decided to activate a 48-year-old law that bars women and children from working in commercial establishments after eight o'clock in the evening.

"Many of these places have licences for Indian classical dance performances," said the police officer. "But the shows often have no resemblance to anything Indian or classic."

The waitresses swear they will not give up without a fight.

"During the last few weeks, the police have started raiding the ladies' bars in the northeastern suburbs," said Anand Shetty, president of the Bar and Restaurant Working-Class Ladies' Association.

"Business has fallen off. Our customers are staying

away because they are scared of being arrested."

Mr. Shetty said his organisation, which has about 5,000 members, will take the fight to the courts. But first it plans to march on the state's legislative assembly, on July 10, in a bid to persuade the state's legislators to update the rules.

Ladies' bars, as they are colloquially known, provide employment to close on 40,000 women in a city of 13 million, Mr. Shetty estimated.

"There is no prostitution going on at the time of duty, I can assure you," Shetty said. "But what the women do after hours is their own concern."

Indian authorities' attitude to liquor, and pubs in general, is ambiguous. Sporadic crackdowns on bars, in line with a general national policy of prohibition, are apt to run out of steam when faced with opposition from local business.

An identical ban last year fizzled out after strong protest from the waitresses.

"Nightlife in Bombay comes to an end at the latest by one a.m.," said State Cultural Affairs Minister Pramod Navalkar, the moving spirit behind the new

ban.

"What is the need to be out after that? Our action is directed towards curbing anti-social activities, not the social life of the city," Mr. Navalkar added.

Some of the waitresses see the controversy as yet another burden in the way of their efforts to make a living.

"I make around 300 rupees on a good day," said Shobha, 31, who works as a waitress in a tiny bar in the northeastern suburb of Chembur.

Immaculately coiffed, she wore a dress that clung to her torso, flaring out at the hips. Jewels flashed at her ears and throat. Shobha smiled as she took a 100-rupee note out of the fingers of a patron, to hand it to the singer on the stage.

"I have to support my parents and three-year-old son alone after my husband died a year ago," she said. "I left school at thirteen. It's difficult to get a similar job anywhere else."

Shobha's neighbours think she works as an extra in the dance scenes in the films that Bombay's studios churn out each day.

## Writer bridges different worlds through fiction

By Sonali Desai  
Reuters

SINGAPORE — Singaporean author Ho Minfong looks entirely in her element addressing a large audience of teenage schoolgirls about the homesickness and nostalgia that first drove her to write.

More than 800 youngsters, many of them lost in the cushioned seats of their school hall, listen avidly, laughing with warm recognition at her jokes about "pushy boys" and bursting into applause as she slips unexpectedly into ancient Chinese verse.

Ms. Ho, who left her then-home in sub-tropical Thailand to go to school in wintry Ithaca, New York at the age of 16, said her first novel was born out of intense homesickness.

"I missed the very basic things of home: the leaves, the sun, people's skin ... 'Sing to the Dawn' was a way to bridge Ithaca and Bangkok."

Essentially a children's tale, "Sing to the Dawn" is about a Thai village girl who wins a scholarship to study in the city, but faces the resistance of her father

and brother while she grapples with her own insecurities about leaving home.

The book, widely studied in Singapore schools, was adapted recently into a musical by the Singapore musical theatre in a cross-border collaboration between the U.S.-based Ho, British lyricist Stephen Clark and Singapore singer-composer Dick Lee.

Ms. Ho, in Singapore earlier this month to promote the musical at the launch of an international arts festival, admits that she has never entirely forgotten the initial wrench of leaving home. It's not difficult to see why: the 45-year-old writer has lived in Laos, Thailand, Singapore, Taiwan and Switzerland — and now makes her home in Ithaca with her husband and three children.

"Writing for me became a glue that I used to try and patch together the different parts of myself ... The Thai of my hands, the Cantonese of my heart, the English of my head," she tells her school audience.

Later, sitting across the sunny kitchen table in her parents' home, Ms. Ho is animated — and even more

relaxed before an audience of one.

"There are certain markers you come back to again and again. For me, it's been the sense of leaving home, the tension between too much freedom and too much definition," she observes.

It is the same tension the young Thai girl, Dawan, experiences in "Sing to the Dawn" as she finally wins the approval of her family and prepares to leave for the city.

"For me, the most powerful part of the book has always been the point at which dawon says to her grandmother: 'How can I take the sunset? How can I take the things that really matter to me — I don't know that I really want to go,'" Ms. Ho says, her voice dipping to near silence.

In adapting for the stage a novel she wrote 20 years ago, Ms. Ho found herself pruning what she calls its more "didactic" aspects while dramatising Dawan's internal conflict into a full-fledged battle between the sexes.

Her other novels, "Rice without Rain" and "The

Clay Marble", deal with the effects of a student uprising and of the Cambodian war on villages in Thailand. They are also written from a young girl's perspective. Noting that she frequently speaks at schools in the United States, she adds that her visits to girls' schools in Singapore hold a unique appeal.

"My books sell a lot more copies in the U.S., but there's never been the kind of warmth and enthusiasm there is from the girls here. For one thing, there are no girls' schools there."

"I like the fact that the stories they (Singapore schools) have used are all about empowering girls," she says.

Ms. Ho's decision more than 20 years ago to set up the Dawn Fellowship, using a portion of her royalties, gave expression to her ideas about empowerment.

"The book has made it possible for some real Thai village girls to study and become nurses," she says in response to a student's question, adding with a smile: "So you see, it all weaves together."

## North Koreans in Japan move out of isolation

By Yvonne Chang  
Reuters

KOKUBUNJI, Japan (R) — North Korea's halting steps to end its international isolation are also spreading to the biggest overseas community of ethnic North Koreans.

The overseas Koreans do not have as far to travel as compatriots in their Communist homeland — just a step outside the pro-North Korean schools and college operating in Japan.

While the majority of graduates from the pro-Pyongyang Korean University in Japan aspire to become teachers at other pro-North schools inside Japan, some are starting to venture outside the estimated 250,000 pro-North Korean community in Japan.

"One of my former classmates recently went to Korea Town in America to study computer technology," said Oh Wong-Il, 21, a third-year student at the Korea University, in the western Tokyo suburb of Kokubunji.

A decade ago, it would have been unthinkable for a pro-Pyongyang Korean in Japan to cross the political aisle and join the pro-Seoul Korean community in Los Angeles.

Another graduate has gone even further and wholeheartedly embraced capitalism by taking a master of business administration (MBA) degree at a U.S. university.

Other graduates of the fiercely pro-Pyongyang college, adorned with portraits of Kim Jong-Il and Kim Il-Sung, work at Japanese firms to meet a growing demand for bilingual staff.

Still, the students wanting to come in from the cold are the exception and the majority of the 1,500 students at the college want to become teachers at other pro-North schools inside Japan to pass on their ethnic identity to the next generation.

"I think teachers play the most important role in enabling one to live as a Korean in Japan," Mr. Oh said. "I want to pass on what I learned from my teachers to the next generation."

While most pro-Seoul Kore-

an children in Japan attend Japanese schools, many of the 20,000 children of the pro-North community enter one of 145 schools run by the pro-Pyongyang General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, or Chogyon.

At the top of the pyramid of this chain of schools is the Korea University, the only university in Japan run by North Koreans to provide higher education for the community.

The courses consist largely of teaching the Korean language, culture and history modelled on what is taught in North Korean schools at this moment, down to Marxist economic theory.

The pro-North schools are a legacy of Japan's colonial rule of the Korean peninsula from 1910 to 1945. The Japanese brought 2.1 million Koreans to Japan as forced labourers.

After Japan's World War II defeat, a total of 600,000 Koreans decided to stay in Japan. They are split between 40 per cent who remain loyal to Pyongyang and 60 per cent who support South Korea.

In contrast to pro-South counterparts, employment

opportunities for pro-Pyongyang Koreans are still mostly limited to firms and organisations run by members of the community.

Pak Sam-Sok, professor of international relations at the university, blamed Japanese discrimination against Koreans, especially those loyal to Pyongyang.

"Discrimination against us is institutionalised," Mr. Pak said.

He singled out education laws which do not recognise North Korean schools and the 10 pro-Seoul Korean schools in Japan.

The law bans graduates of the schools from entering Japanese universities on the grounds that they have not received compulsory Japanese education.

Of the roughly 400 who graduate every year from the pro-Pyongyang high school in Tokyo, some 120 enter Korea University, and 180 seek employment.

The remainder try to enter Japanese universities, although only after enrolling with Japanese correspondence schools so they can technically

finish compulsory education. Parents in the North Korean community are caught between wanting to provide ethnic education while offering wider career chances for children likely to remain permanently in Japan.

"Until the 1970s, North Koreans here thought of returning to their homeland. But today many have already financially and socially established themselves here," Mr. Pak said.

To accommodate calls for wider career possibilities, the association running the

schools revised the curriculum in 1993 to raise the standard of education to match that of Japanese schools, while keeping ethnic education intact.

The students are comfortable with the changes. "The pace of integration in my generation is increasing. But being a Korean in Japan is my way of contributing to my North Korean homeland," said Mr. Oh.

Mr. Oh's classmate Pak Myong-Hwa agreed. "There will come a time when we can also present ourselves to the international scene."

### ANNONCE DE L'AMBASSADE DE FRANCE

Monsieur Bernard BAJOLET, Ambassadeur de France en Jordanie, invite cordialement les français en Jordanie à la réception qu'il offrira à l'occasion de la Fête Nationale, le DIMANCHE 14 juillet 1996 de 19 H 30 à 21 H 30, à la Résidence de France à Amman. Les cartons d'invitation, qui seront exigés à l'entrée de la résidence, peuvent être retirés jusqu'au dimanche 14 juillet à 16 H 00 à l'Ambassade, sur présentation d'une carte d'identité.

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European aid being squandered by bureaucracy

# Rich countries slash aid to the poor, says new report

SYDNEY (AFP) — Aid contributions from 21 of the world's richest nations to some of the poorest fell in 1994 to their lowest level in 20 years, according to an international report.

The reality of aid report also found much of the aid still flowing goes toward securing commercial advantage and economic advancement of donor countries rather than addressing the basic needs of the poor.

It said eight of 21 members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) development assistance committee cut their contributions, as the share of aid to the poorest countries fell by seven per cent since 1990.

The report, the fourth study of aid funding by an international network of ooo-government organisations, was released here amid continuing controversy over Australia's decision to abolish an aid scheme which had provided soft loans tied to export contracts.

Four Asian nations — China, Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines — protested to Canberra about its cancellation of the development import finance facility which cost Australia one billion dollars (\$800 million) in export contracts to save 120 million dollars a year.

The report finds that Australia had followed the lead of 20 other industrialised nations which had reduced their aid budgets to 1994 to

their lowest level in 20 years.

While Australia had increased aid in real terms in 1995/96, the aid still represented a historic low of 0.33 per cent of gross national product, compared with the United Nations' target of 0.7 per cent.

British Labour Party spokesman on development cooperation, Lord Frank Judd, a former director of the aid agency Oxfam U.K., rejected arguments by rich countries that they could not afford to increase or maintain aid contributions.

"When these things were pioneered, when it was seen as an issue of absolute moral priority that we must be tackling these issues, we weren't as wealthy as we are today," Mr. Lord Judd told reporters after releasing the report.

"It's not that we can't afford, we choose not to afford," he said. "We put a higher premium on selfishness than we do on pulling together as a human race."

He also appealed to governments not to shy away from intervening in market processes to safeguard common good and meet basic human needs.

Australian Council for Overseas Aid executive director Janet Huot said the findings were a damning report card on global commitment to ending poverty.

Another international report says European aid to less developed countries is not only shrinking, but

much of what remains is squandered in bureaucracy or linked to trade.

Reality of Aid 1996 — a report by non-governmental organisations from 27 countries — says aid is likely to fall to its lowest level ever this year.

The report also says that competition for funds means the countries that need aid most are getting less.

"Least developed and other low income countries have seen their share of aid fall by seven per cent since 1990," the report says. "Bilateral aid to sub-Saharan Africa... since 1991 has been reduced by \$670 million."

Mirjam van Reijse, one of the report's authors, told Reuters the situation could improve dramatically if the European Union (EU) and member states put more emphasis on coordination.

She said the European Commission — which has the job of coordinating aid policy by EU member states — faced countless problems including an "incoherent organisational structure" which meant much of the work was duplicated.

The regionally oriented divisions of the commission compound the problem — there are four separate departments dealing with development policy as well as the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO).

Ms. Van Reijse said

while member states were putting more pressure on the commission over aid, they were not making resources available.

She said there was a "drastic shortage of staff and lack of expertise within the commission" leading to a greater emphasis being put on more costly subcontractors.

The report said the gulf between donor rhetoric and action was a key feature of international aid.

It said donors wanted free trade, but linking aid to trade had cost recipient countries an estimated \$2 billion in overpricing. Human rights considerations were also buried by commercial interests, it said.

Reality of aid called on governments to set deadlines for eradicating poverty, ensure aid as a percentage of donor oatioo gross domestic product was maintained and allocate at least 50 per cent of aid for direct investment in social development.

## Palestinians prepare stock exchange

NABLUS, West Bank (R) — Palestinians, eager to get the wheels of their economy going, are planning their first stock exchange to attract capital from expatriates reluctant to invest in the volatile West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Work on the \$2 million Palestine Securities Exchange (PSE) in the West Bank city of Nablus is in the final stages and the fully electronic bourse could be open for trading before the end of the year, officials said.

The PSE is a joint venture by the Palestinian Development and Investment Company (PADICO) and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Samed Establishment, both important players in the nascent economy in self-rule areas.

"The stock market was designed to repatriate expatriate Palestinian capital by ensuring maximum protection for investors," PSE General Manager Safwan Bataina told Reuters.

He said that the modern technology, transparency and strict monitoring regulations would enable investors to monitor their investments from anywhere in the world.

Preparatory work began last year, while Israel and

the PLO moved forward in implementing their 1993 self-rule accord.

But Palestinian economists fear that the election of hardliner Benjamin Netanyahu as Israel's prime minister could discourage investors.

Mr. Netanyahu opposes trading occupied Arab land for peace and has said his top priority would be security for Israel, which under its deals with the PLO controls the self-rule areas' crossing points and the flow of imports and exports. But Dr. Bataina said investors in the bourse project were not swayed by the government change in Israel.

"Of course we cannot ignore the outcome of the Israeli elections. But the financiers are committed to the project and will not be stopped by Netanyahu or by others," Dr. Bataina said.

Canadian experts and technicians contracted by the PSE have begun furnishing the 1,200 square metre future bourse.

State-of-the-art communications equipment and computer networks are being installed at the spa-

cial offices overlooking Nablus, the designated economic capital of the self-rule areas.

Dr. Bataina said the PSE would be ready to open by the end of August. But a decision on the official opening would be made by the Palestinian finance ministry which will act as the regulatory authority supervising the PSE.

Administrators estimate that Palestinians living in the Arab World, North and South America and in Europe own more than \$5 billion in assets. Most expatriate investment has gone into real estate in the Palestinian areas, reflecting concern over political instability.

Feasibility studies show that about 60 companies which had sold shares upon founding operate in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with a total market value of over \$700 million.

Dr. Bataina, who worked for 10 years on Wall Street and served as an economic advisor to five prime ministers in Jordan, said he expected most companies

(Continued on page 9)

## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) During the daytime today, you have secret anxieties which could keep you from handling your career activities well. Resist dwelling on them and later tonight you will be able to conclude on some important project you have put aside.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 21) A close friend and a new fellow associate might not be agreeable today and spoil plans you had made, however, stall for time until this evening when you will be able to meet with some knowledgeable person and get all the answers.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Try not to get into any altercation today between a fellow associate and a bigwig. Go quietly about your career activities and you will accomplish a great deal later this evening towards your success.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) A fellow associate could disagree with someone you do not know today, however, don't take any sides or you could find yourself defending any adverse decisions. Later this evening you will find romance with your mate favourable.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You want to have a good time today, however, you just recalled a promise you made which must be fulfilled. Fulfill that obligation first and then later tonight you can have fun with your loved ones and close friends.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Do not disagree today with anyone at home or in the business world otherwise you could find yourself in hot water with a fellow associate or your loved ones. This evening brings fine accord with a fellow associate.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Forget that impulse to do something radical today in the outside world which could affect your regular career activities. Later this evening you can go out on the town with some close friends and have a good time.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Making any changes where your present career activities are concerned today will not adapt to your benefit. Later this evening will be good for staying in with your mate and loved ones and have some interesting conversations.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) It is best to wait until this evening for amusements, since the morning today is best spent perfecting your talents, whatever they be in business or in some other activities which will get recognised by someone in authority.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to Jan. 20) It is important you keep poised and smile more at home today so that you do not invite difficulties there. Avoid disagreements involving some fellow associate and a bigwig or you could find yourself in the middle of a bad situation.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) This is not a good day for travel today, so get busy at reports and statements which are important to handle and you will gain success from those in authority. Later this evening, plan to spend some time with your loved ones.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Business and finances take up a good part of your time today, so make the best of them, however, later tonight you will get a feeling of satisfaction for tasks well-completed which will get recognition from some bigwig.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

## Ireland tops EU growth table for second year

LUXEMBOURG (AFP) — Ireland's status as the economic tiger of western Europe was confirmed recently with the publication of figures putting it at the top of the European Union's growth table for a second consecutive year.

An 8.6 per cent increase in gross domestic product (GDP) was nearly twice as

fast as its closest rival, Finland, which saw growth of 4.2 per cent in its first full year in the European Union (EU). Overall, the European Union's economy grew at a rate of 2.4 per cent in 1995, down from 2.8 per cent in 1994, according to the figures released by Eurostat.

That compares with 2.1 per cent in the United States and 0.9 per cent in Japan. Austria registered the lowest growth at 1.8 per cent, followed by Belgium, Germany and Portugal (1.9 per cent).

The four big EU economies — France, Germany, Italy and the U.K. — accounted for 72 per cent of the EU's total GDP.

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### THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



"The motivation seminar got everyone really excited. I think it was all that free coffee they gave us."

### Peanuts



### Andy Capp

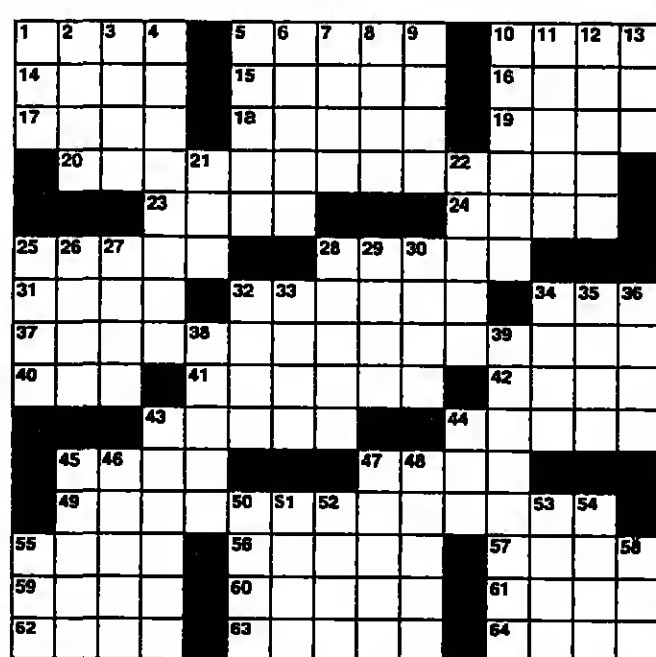


### Mutt'n'Jeff

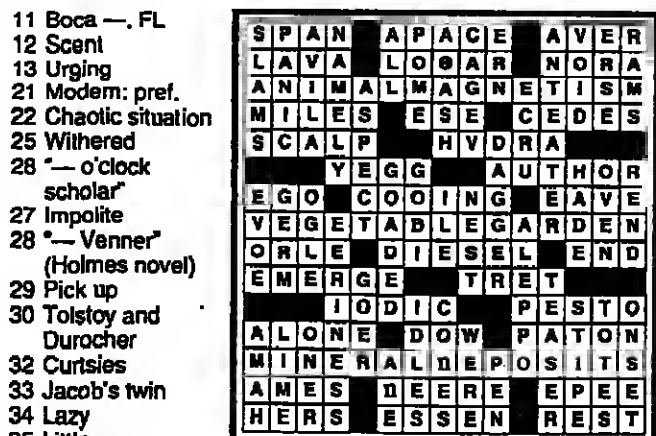


### THE Daily Crossword by Florence C. Adler

- ACROSS  
1 Karenina  
5 Feels compassion  
10 Salver  
14 Borscht  
15 Ingredient  
16 Because of  
17 Rabbit  
17 Inland sea  
18 Tapestry  
19 Collar  
20 State flower of Florida  
23 Require  
24 1492 vessel  
25 Andrea del  
28 Raines and Logan  
31 Case for a small article  
32 Creed  
34 State: abbr.  
37 Clara Barton  
40 Wind direction: abbr.  
41 Anticipates  
42 Jar  
43 Follow  
44 Small fish  
45 Monster of fairy tales  
47 Italian city  
49 Very jealous  
55 Author Waugh  
56 Mistake  
57 Tiny particle  
59 Converse  
60 Sawyer of TV  
61 Roman robe  
62 — and eggs  
63 High-spirited horse  
64 Enthusiasm



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- DOWN  
1 Desert garment  
2 Pianist Peter  
3 Approach  
4 — City (resort)  
5 Healed  
6 Seasoning plant  
8 And others: abbr.  
9 Fair to middling  
10 Dissertation  
11 Boca —, FL  
12 Scant  
13 Urging  
21 Modern: pref.  
22 Chaotic situation  
25 Withered  
26 "o'clock scholar"  
27 Impolite  
28 "Venner" (Holmes novel)  
29 Pick up  
30 Tolstoy and Durocher  
32 Curtises  
33 Jacob's twin  
34 Lazy  
35 Little — (Dickens' girl)  
36 Mild expletive  
38 Rajah's wife  
39 Select a candidate  
43 Constructs  
44 Holy woman: abbr.  
45 Eyed  
46 Avarice  
47 Expiate  
48 Fragment  
50 Beatty and Rorem  
51 Legal document  
52 Dies —  
53 Type of flight: abbr.  
54 Mental discipline  
55 —, amas, amat  
58 Isle of —

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PRICE
7/13/96	10:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	11:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	12:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	13:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	14:00	AMMAN	10.00

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PRICE
7/13/96	15:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	16:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	17:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	18:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	19:00	AMMAN	10.00

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PRICE
7/13/96	20:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	21:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	22:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	23:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	00:00	AMMAN	10.00

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PRICE
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7/13/96	02:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	03:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	04:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	05:00	AMMAN	10.00

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PRICE
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7/13/96	07:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	08:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	09:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	10:00	AMMAN	10.00

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PRICE
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7/13/96	12:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	13:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	14:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	15:00	AMMAN	10.00

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PRICE
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7/13/96	17:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	18:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	19:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	20:00	AMMAN	10.00

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PRICE
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7/13/96	22:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	23:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	00:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	01:00	AMMAN	10.00

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PRICE
7/13/96	02:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	03:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	04:00	AMMAN	10.00
7/13/96	05:00	AMMAN	10.00
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# Gulf war Arab allies meet today to discuss Iran, Mideast peace

DUBAI (R) — Foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria and the six oil-rich Gulf Arab countries will meet in Oman on Saturday for talks on strained ties with Iran and support for Damascus' stand on the Middle East peace process.

The two-day meeting in Muscat will also discuss Gulf security after a bomb killed 19 American soldiers in Saudi Arabia in June.

Officials and diplomats in the Gulf said.

"Saudi Arabia will brief the ministers on the bombing and they will discuss security in the Gulf," an Arab diplomat said.

In addition to Saudi Arabia, the Gulf Arab states are Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Along with Egypt and Syria, they formed the Arab backbone of the U.S.-led alliance that forced Iraq out of Kuwait in 1991.

In the same year they formed their "Damascus Declaration" alliance.

Diplomats said meetings of the eight countries deal more with Middle East peace, Iraq and Iran than with the objectives of the pact, which envisaged economic and political cooperation and an ambitious Gulf deterrent force.

"They are expected to

adopt the Arab summit decisions on the peace process and review (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu's comments in Washington," one official said.

Mr. Netanyahu reiterated in Washington this week his opposition to the land-for-peace idea, insisted on Jerusalem as a unified capital for Israel and refused the setting up of a Palestinian state.

Arab leaders were pushed by Mr. Netanyahu's election to hold a summit in Cairo in June, where they said they would reconsider concessions they made in five years of peace talks if the new Israeli government tries to change the terms of negotiations.

"The ministers will support Syria's demand for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights," another official said.

They are also due to discuss Syria's efforts to mend ties between Iran and its Gulf Arab neighbours as well as Egypt.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa has recently visited Iran, Bahrain, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. He said Syria wanted to improve ties between Iran and Arab states, particularly Egypt.

Syria, Iran's main Arab

ally, mediated between Tehran and Bahrain, which accuses the Islamic republic of being behind an alleged plot to topple its government. Iran denied the charge.

Gulf Arab states have accused their neighbour of interfering in their internal affairs and voiced concern over its arms programme, in an unusually strong attack on Iran.

The ministers were not expected to take steps to revive the alliance, which diplomats had over the years declared as dead.

Shortly after it was formed, the military aspect of the pact was said to be unnecessary and a face-saving formula that allowed bilateral military cooperation to be adopted. It came to nothing.

The Gulf states now have defence agreements with big powers like the United States, France and Britain.

Egypt and Syria were to benefit from a \$10 billion fund to be set up by the Gulf states, but it did not materialise. Diplomats say however the Gulf states had each given millions of dollars in loans at favourable interest rates or grants to both Arab states in appreciation of their Gulf war role.

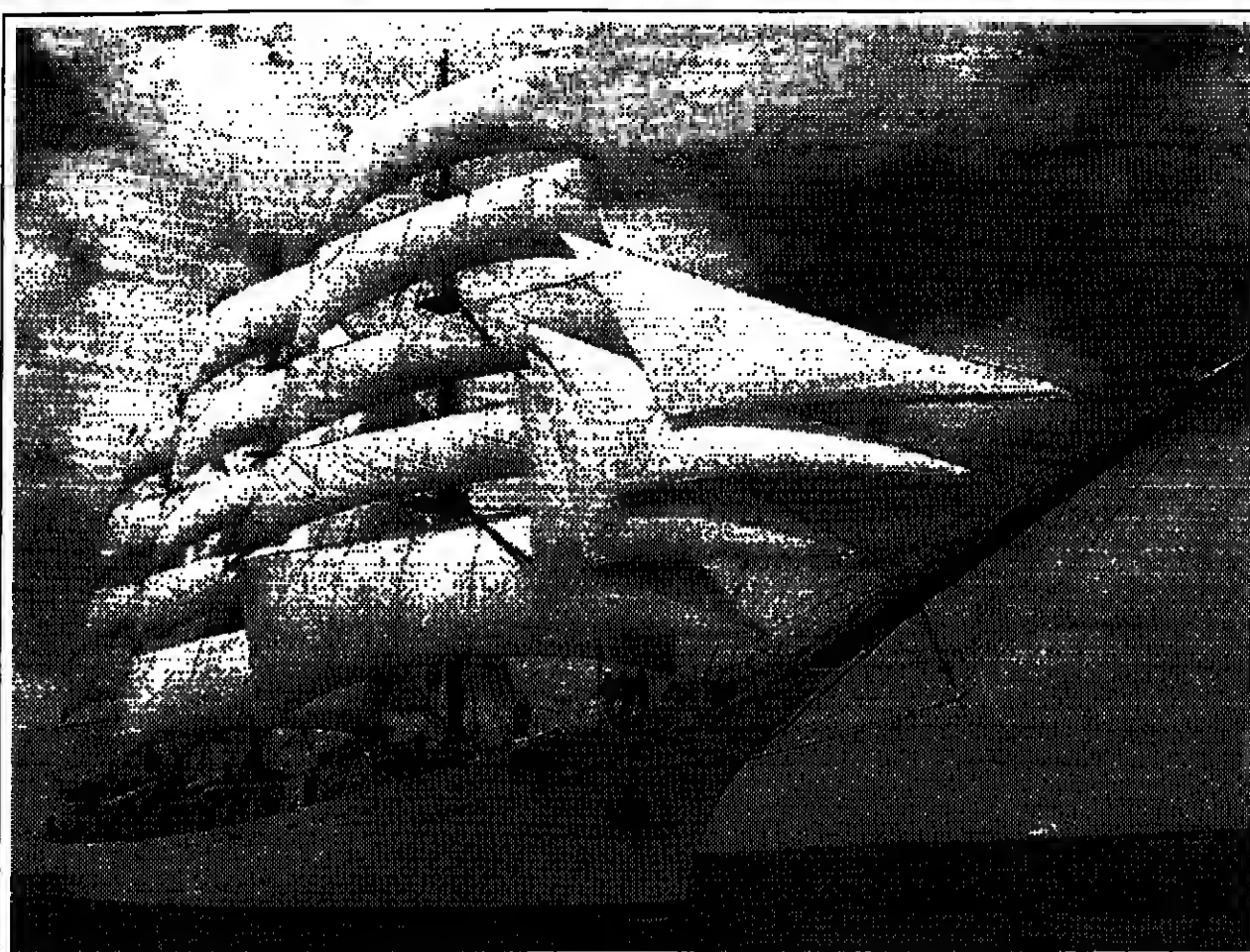
## Netanyahu does not 'rule out' meeting Assad

NEW YORK (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Friday that he would not rule out private meetings with Syrian President Hafez Assad if the Syrian leader was willing.

Mr. Netanyahu, asked on the Fox TV "Good Day NY" show whether any private meetings with President Assad were likely, replied: "Well, I would not rule them out at all if we had the opportunity to do so. But as you know, so far Mr. Assad has been reluctant to have any direct contacts, with my predecessors and myself."

The hardline Israeli leader was on his first visit to the United States since his election as prime minister in May, having had talks in Washington with President Bill Clinton and met other political and business leaders in New York.

In Jerusalem on Friday, the newspaper Maariv quoted Mr. Netanyahu as telling the U.S. Senate foreign affairs committee that the starting point for peace talks with Syria was each side's demand that it keep the strategic Golan Heights. Israel's previous government suspended talks with Syria after Islamic militant suicide attacks in February and March in which 59 people were killed. The talks have yet to resume.



THE UKRAINIAN TALLSHIP XEPCHOEC SAILS NEAR BREST: The Ukrainian tallship 'Xepchoec' seen off the coast of Brest under full sail as some 2,500 boats gather. Friday prior to the opening of BREST 96. More than 2 million visitors are expected to attend the July 13-20 gathering of sailing boats of all sizes (Reuters photo)

## Some U.S. troops to shift in S. Arabia

WASHINGTON (R) — Some U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia will be moved to more secure locations as a precaution following last month's truck bomb attack in Dhahran, the Defence Department said on Thursday.

"It's quite clear that there will be some movement to some place. I do think there will be some movements of some troops," Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said at a briefing.

Mr. Bacon said plans for the transfer were not complete so he could not say how many troops would be shifted. There are about 5,000 U.S. servicemen in Saudi Arabia, mostly members of the U.S. air force.

The June 25 blast killed 19 airmen at a housing complex in Dhahran. A bomb blast November in Riyadh killed five Americans.

There have been reports

that many of the troops would be moved from urban areas in Saudi Arabia to more remote bases.

Mr. Bacon said U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia and the Mideast remained on a high state of alert against another attack.

The State Department said on Wednesday that the U.S. embassy in Saudi Arabia had received reports suggesting there could be further attacks on Americans.

Asked if U.S. officials expected another attack, Mr. Bacon said there were strong concerns about one. He said the Defence Department was aware of the same reports as the state department.

Mr. Bacon dismissed as wrong a Washington Post report on Wednesday that top Pentagon officials had been warned about the Khobar Towers complex in June 17 intelligence report.

But Saudi officials had not

approved a U.S. request to expand the security perimeter around the complex from 100 to 400 feet (30 to 90 metres).

Mr. Bacon said Defence Secretary William Perry did not see the June 17 report but was aware of the security concerns.

But Senate intelligence committee chairman Arlen Specter told a news conference he wanted Mr. Perry to explain why he did not order preventive action after reading the report or explain why he did not see it.

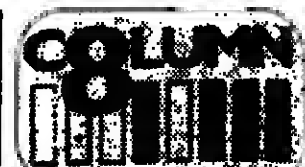
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World population could hit 9 billion in 2025

MEXICO CITY (R) — The world's population could swell to nine billion in 30 years, depending on how hard countries try to curb population growth, the head of the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) said Thursday. UNFPA Executive Director Nafis Sadik said during an event marking world population day that the U.N.'s most optimistic population forecast was 7.6 billion by the year 2025, with nine billion being the worst-case scenario. "The effectiveness of national policies and programmes and the international community in addressing population concerns. In the next years will determine whether the actual population number is closer to the higher or lower end," she told a news conference in this city of 18 million people. Millions of women in the developing world still did not have control over their own family planning decisions, a key part of the U.N. strategy to control the world's booming population, Ms. Sadik said. "We need to educate girls just as we educate boys. Girls need the sense just as much as boys that they can do what they want with their life and their minds," Ms. Sadik said.

## Man's death triggers tragedy of errors

HANOI (R) — The death of an old man in central Vietnam triggered a series of accidents which killed his wife, a young father and seriously injured six people, the Thanh Nien newspaper said Thursday. After Vo Lieu, 74, died of natural causes Wednesday last week, his children administered a drug to his wife to prevent her screaming at the funeral scheduled for the following day. She died of an overdose before the funeral was held. A joint funeral was then held but at the graveyard, a truck transporting the coffin of Lieu and his wife careened out of control and crashed into the funeral procession, killing a 26-year old man and injuring six others.

## Yemen population reaches 16.6 m

SANAA (R) — The population of impoverished Yemen has reached 16.6 million people and would increase to 19.65 million in year 2000, an official said in a statement published on Friday.

"Yemen's population by Thursday afternoon reached 16.64 million people as a result of 3.7 per cent annual growth," said Mohammad Ali Al Haj, the secretary-general of the National Population Council.

"The country's population is to reach 19.65 million by the year 2000," he said in a statement published in Al Thawrah daily.

Mr. Al Haj said the projected growth in population had "dangerous implications" because the authorities would come under pressure to boost services, roads and schools.

Officials estimate Yemen is suffering from 100 per cent inflation and unemployment ranging from 30 to 50 per cent.

## Beijing bans burials in precious farmland

BEIJING (R) — The Beijing city government has banned burials in precious farmland and ordered that cemeteries be built only in areas where nothing will grow, the Xinhua News Agency said Friday. The standing committee of the city's parliament, or People's Congress, Thursday passed the new rules, which will take effect from Oct. 1, it said. The regulations were intended to promote the reform of funerals and burials, protect land resources and advance "cultural and ideological progress," with detailed regulations on storing ashes and building cemeteries. Cemeteries must be built on barren mountain sides or barren land and may not be built on farmland, the rules said. By the end of 1994, there were 29 illegal cemeteries in 25 suburban areas of Beijing occupying more than 40 hectares (98.8 acres) of land, the China Daily said. Builders must get permission from local government departments before they can construct a cemetery, it said. China strongly encourages people to cremate the dead, especially urban residents, but most people prefer to keep the ashes of their relatives in graves or cemeteries, despite an official campaign to scatter them in the sea to save land.

## Turkey's premier Erbakan visits Muslim heartland

KONYA, Turkey (R) — Turkey's first Islamist prime minister, Necmettin Erbakan, returned to his roots on Friday at a triumphant reception by thousands of the faithful in the conservative Muslim heartland.

"We have been treated like the black sheep of the family for being on the side of the people. That's all over now," Mr. Erbakan told a flag-waving crowd on a visit to the devout central city of Konya.

Mr. Erbakan, dressed in a white suit, toured the city in an open air pick-up truck garlanded with flowers. A motorcade of several hundred vehicles tooted their horns as onlookers applauded and shouted Islamist slogans.

His Welfare Party, wary of upsetting the secularist majority, last month discouraged street celebrations in Ankara after a coalition deal gave the Islamists their greatest share of power in modern Turkey's history.

Mr. Erbakan, in an alliance with a pro-Western party, has so far charted a moderate course. He has promised to protect democracy and pre-

serve Turkey's close ties to Europe and the United States.

He has backtracked on a vow to scrap a military deal between Turkey and Israel, but residents of Konya, a drab Islamist bastion on the parched Anatolian plains, gave fuel to critics who say Mr. Erbakan is biding time until he can introduce radical Islamist changes.

"It's a breakthrough that Welfare can get into government despite all the obstacles," said businessman Dervis Cavus, 33. "But it is not enough, he can only get his way if he comes to power on his own."

"If Israel keeps on killing children he will sort them out," said a bearded follower with an Islamist-style skull cap who identified himself only as Mustafa.

Mr. Erbakan, a perennial Konya member of parliament, kicked off his bid for power in 1969 as an almost unknown Islamist independent.

In general elections last December, he won 21 per cent of the vote nationwide — more than any other party — and is seeking to garner fur-

ther support with populist policies.

Mr. Erbakan, 69, gave 7.5 million public employees and pensioners a 50 per cent wage rise this week and promised bonuses for the staunchly secularist armed forces.

Generals who staged a coup in 1980 to end left-right street fighting had cited a rowdy Islamist rally led by Mr. Erbakan in Konya as the last straw that made them intervene.

"Our great cause of liberation began in Konya 27 years ago," Mr. Erbakan told a crowd before attending Friday prayers in the packed 16th century Selimiye Mosque. Worshippers, listening to a sermon, got on their feet to applaud as he entered.

Konya was the first city council captured by Welfare in 1989 when the party was on the fringes of Turkish politics.

The party now controls around 400 municipalities, many of which have a reputation for efficiency and putting religious zeal in second place to improving neglected public amenities.

## Saddam reportedly foils another coup attempt

CAIRO (AP) — Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein has reportedly foiled a fresh attempt by disgruntled military officers to remove him from power, the latest in several bids since the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

Iraqi dissidents and Arab sources said Friday at least 50 officers, including two commanders, were arrested last month on suspicion that they were preparing for a military coup to topple President Saddam.

The dissidents, reached by telephone in neighbouring Jordan, said all the suspects are Sunni Muslims and some of them are trusted

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### WFP appeals to Sudan to allow food flights

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — An estimated 700,000 people face starvation in southern Sudan because of Sudanese government restrictions on international food aid to the war-ravaged region, the U.N. World Food Programme said Thursday. "We can't get food in there, and people are going to start starving," WFP Director Catherine Bertini told reporters. "We are already seeing sick-like legs, bloated bellies and hair that is taking on the reddish hue, indicating serious malnutrition." Last September, Sudan barred the World Food Programme (WFP) from using C-130 transport planes to deliver food to the south, where Christian and animist rebels have been battling the northern, Muslim-dominated Khartoum government since 1983. The government claims humanitarian groups have used planes to smuggle weapons to southern rebels. The United Nations and other organisations have denied the claim. Some U.N. officials suspect the Sudanese government simply wants to prevent adequate food supplies from reaching rebel areas regardless of the cost to civilians there.

### Turkey killed 'many Kurd rebels in raid'

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Turkey's military said on Thursday its planes had killed a large number of Kurdish rebels in a cross-border air strike into northern Iraq. The planes bombed the Bote camp in the mountains of northern Iraq on Wednesday and "a large number" of Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels were killed, military headquarters said. "The separatist" ammunition dumps and installations were destroyed," the military said in a statement. It said all planes taking part in the operation returned to their bases after the raid against the camp where around 750 PKK rebels were based. Security officials in the southeastern Turkish city of Diyarbakir said groups of F-16 jets had flown 15 sorties into Iraq from a base there. They said it was difficult to measure the number of rebel casualties. Turkish forces have often launched operations into northern Iraq, from where the PKK stages attacks into Turkey. Around 30,000 Turkish troops were unable to oust the rebels from the rugged region in a cross-border drive last year that lasted six weeks. Some of Turkey's Western allies criticised that operation.

### Afghan stepmother, son stoned to death

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — An Afghan woman and her stepson were stoned to death for incest in the rebel-held southern Afghan town of Kandahar on Thursday on the orders of an Islamic court, an Afghan official said. A spokesman for the official information centre at Kandahar told Reuters by telephone the two convicted died shortly after spectators started throwing stones at them at central Eidgah, where Muslims hold prayer meetings. He identified the stepson as Turaylay and declined to name the woman "for religious reasons." He said both were in their 20s. The two were caught engaged in sexual intercourse several days ago and confessed their crime before Islamic Judge Maulvi Said Mohammad, who issued the death sentence, the spokesman said. Kandahar is the headquarters of the Taliban Islamic militia, which controls most of Afghanistan and seeks to topple President Burhanuddin Rabbani's government in Kabul and enforce strict Islamic order in the war-shattered country.

### Guerrilla killed in South Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (AP) — Hizbollah guerrillas attacked an Israeli-occupied border enclave in South Lebanon Thursday as their leaders declared they were unimpressed by threats from Israel's new hard-line prime minister. Security sources said a guerrilla was killed in the pre-dawn clash in the central sector of the occupied strip, which Israel calls a "security zone." The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the 30-minute battle erupted when guerrillas attacked an outpost of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia near the village of Arab Salim. They fired mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and machine gunfire and the militiamen responded in kind. There was no immediate word of casualties among the SLA fighters, despite a Hizbollah communiqué that claimed the entire garrison had been "wiped out."

Netanyahu aide met Syrian official  
TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's aide has met with a Syrian official in the first direct contact between the two leaders since Mr. Netanyahu's visit to Damascus last month. The aide, Dore Gold, met with Syrian Foreign Minister Hafez Assad's political adviser Dore Gold in Washington. Gold said he relayed a message from Assad to Netanyahu. Assad is interested in continuing the peace process, the aide said. Israeli officials were available for comment.

Volume 21 Number 62

## Queen Noor visits Bosnia

AMMAN (R) — Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan visited Bosnia Saturday and attended a ceremony to mark the fall of Srebrenica. Her Majesty made a speech at the ceremony in which she assured the women of Srebrenica that they were not alone. She said the women of Srebrenica had been treated with respect and dignity. She said they too have to live and work in a free and democratic society. Her Majesty was accompanied by King Hussein and other members of the Jordanian royal family.

## Cabinet discusses subsidies

AMMAN (R) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Qasbi presided over a cabinet session Saturday discussing the mechanism of subsidising foodstuffs. The ministers discussed the mechanism of subsidising foodstuffs and the need to cut government expenditure. The cabinet will meet again on Wednesday to discuss the mechanism of subsidising foodstuffs. The cabinet will also discuss the need to cut government expenditure.

## Most near Egyptian embassy in Sanaa

SANAA (R) — An explosion reported near the Egyptian embassy in Sanaa on Saturday, an embassy official said. "An explosion took place near the Egyptian embassy in Sanaa this morning. There were no casualties or casualties resulted from it," the official said. The official said the blast near government buildings was caused by a dynamite bomb. The Egyptian embassy is located along one of the main commercial streets.

## Egypt court tries Islamist lawyers

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian court has fined a group of Islamist lawyers who had a suit against actress Yasmine Abdel Wahed. The court said the lawyers had published photographs of the actress in a magazine and had threatened to publish more. The court said the lawyers had also threatened to publish more photographs of the actress. The court said the lawyers had also threatened to publish more photographs of the actress.

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